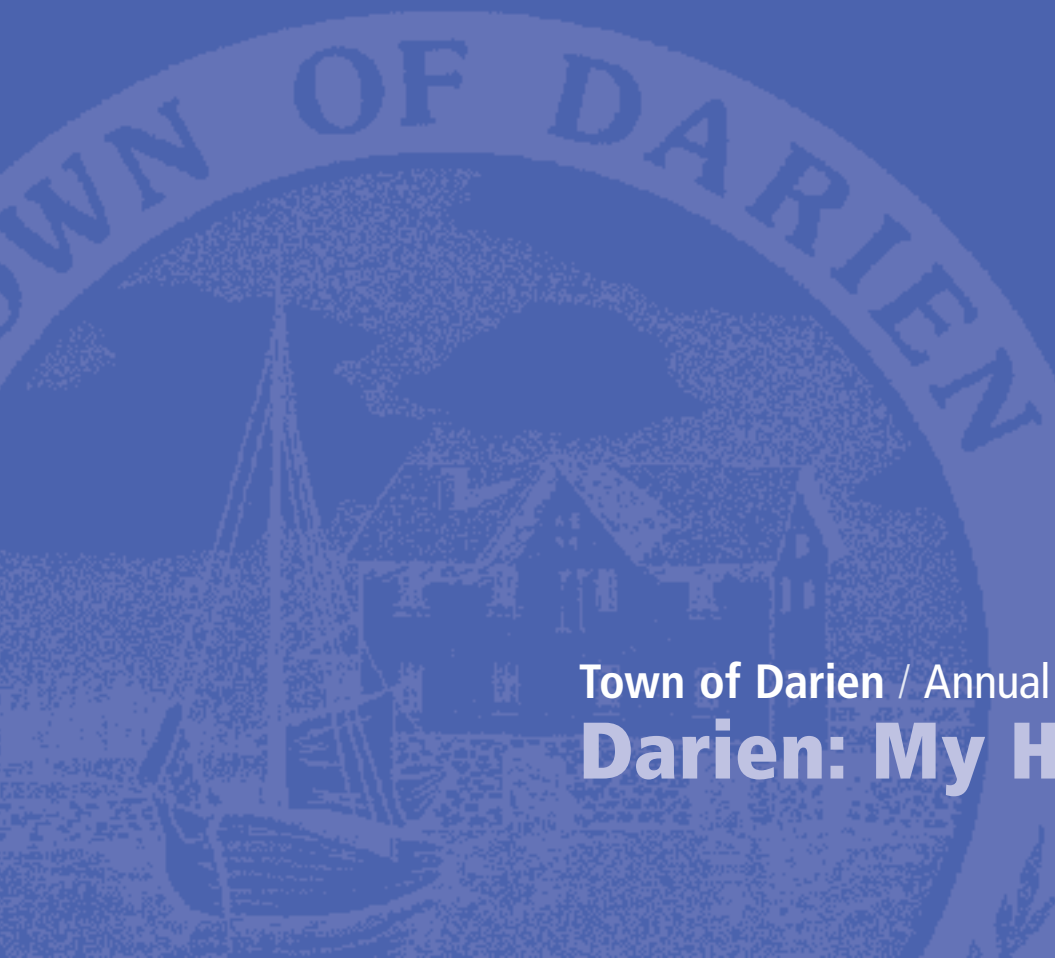
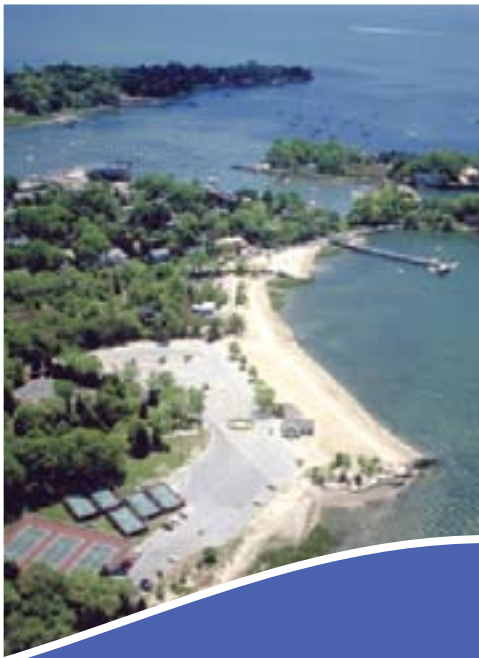


Darien: My Hometown



Town of Darien / Annual Report 2007-2008

Darien: My Hometown



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Message from the First Selectwoman

The Town of Darien, called home by 20,000 residents, offers an excellent school system, rolling parks, beautiful beaches, a senior activities center, volunteer emergency services, a variety of youth sports organizations, non profits and an active town government. Darien residents are active participants in their hometown—whether they volunteer to coach a junior sports team, volunteer at one of our three fire departments as a first responder, serve on an elected board, or become involved in so many other ways.

The Board of Selectmen continues to work with the community to identify issues that are of the utmost importance to the members of our community. Together, we work towards continuing the progress we have already made to improve the overall quality of life for our residents.

Open and Community Space

In many ways, open space defines us as a community—where we gather, what we do, what makes us unique. We continue to direct our efforts towards the improvement of our parks and beaches, our most precious assets. Plans to improve Weed Beach, one of our most valuable assets, are underway.

The Board of Selectman, Board of Finance and RTM approved the purchase of the Darien Library property at 35 Leroy Avenue.

The new library is under construction and projects a completion date of January 2009.

Traffic and Transportation

The safety of our residents remains a top priority. The Darien Police Department and the Darien Police Commission continue to address the congestion issues along the Post Road and Noroton Heights as well as the speeding problem through town. In September, the State Traffic Commission designated Route 136/Tokeneke Road as a No Thru Trucks route, a designation we worked hard to secure.

Andrea Sangrey joined our Planning and Zoning Department as our Manager of Community Development Services this fall.

Downtown and Business Development

This year downtown is booming with construction along the Post Road. Darien Revitalization Inc continues to work on behalf of the merchants.

Community Involvement

The Board of Selectmen continues to expand opportunities for community members to get involved, from creating advisory commissions to a task force for members of the community to find their niche and contribute their talents and knowledge to improve the community. Again this year the Board of Selectmen

identified a project of the year honored at Volunteer Recognition Day—the Darien Days Carnival Committee.

Housing

The Board of Selectmen approved an affordable housing policy for the town as well as a housing trust fund. The Cottage in Darien is expected to open late winter of 2009.

The Board of Selectmen approved a land use policy for the 35 Leroy Avenue property. The Board voted to issue an RFP for affordable housing.

In January the Town of Darien welcomed Karl Kilduff as our new Administrative Officer. He brings a wealth of experience to Darien.

I would like to thank our volunteers and Town Hall staff who make Darien the special community it is. I would also like to thank and commend the Board of Selectmen for their commitment and dedication to the Darien community.

Evonne M. Klein
First Selectwoman

Beautification Commission

The Beautification Commission enjoyed another busy year in fiscal 2007-2008, as illustrated by the following:

Adopt-a-Garden: In 2006, the Beautification Commission initiated its Adopt-a-Garden program, whereby individuals or businesses participate in the beautification of Darien through financial and/or hands-on sponsorship of one of the area's traffic islands/high-visibility downtown locations. In most cases, Adopt-a-Garden projects involve substantial upgrading, landscaping, installation of new plant materials, and the addition of flowering annuals (rather than complete renovation of the areas). Attractive, unobtrusive signage acknowledging the contribution of the adoptive partners is in place at each location.

As of the summer of 2008, there were 10 Adopt-a-Garden sponsors: Complete Designs LLC, Country Living Associates, Darien Board of Realtors, Gardener's Center & Florist, Jim McLoughlin Landscaping, Kelly Associates, Noroton Heights Shopping Center, Park Landscape Design, Quantum Design & Landscapes, and The Growing Concern. New sponsors will be added as the program matures and additional areas are targeted for renovation and beautification (such as Squab Lane terrace and the Tokeneke Road renewal).

Adopt-a-Spot: The Adopt-a-Spot program differs from the Adopt-a-Garden program in that it involves smaller, neighborhood areas throughout Darien. The Beautification Commission coordinates, monitors and honors the individual recruits who take the time and make the effort to beautify visible

spots in locales near their homes. Currently, there are 23 individuals who maintain "spots" at their own expense.

Cemetery Maintenance: The Beautification Commission is charged with maintaining and beautifying Darien's historical cemeteries. Commission activities in this arena have involved mowing, weeding, cleaning debris and fallen limbs and trees, shoring up stone walls, the hanging of attractive signs identifying the name of the cemeteries, and the planting of daffodils. This work is accomplished with Beautification Commission funds (typically more than \$3,000 a year), as well as with the help of the Scouts, Seniors, Garden Club and other volunteer organizations.

The Beautification Commission, under the leadership of John Schlachtenhaufen, took a strong position with regard to the Purdy Development project near the Noroton River Graveyard, specifically with regard to the welfare of the trees in the cemetery. The Commission made specific recommendations as to how to ward off potential damage to the trees as well as possible flooding of graveyard itself.

Daffodils: The Beautification Commission's daffodil planting effort, under which more than 40,000 bulbs have been planted over a ten-year period, was suspended as the Commission embarked on its hanging baskets program. Commission members hope to raise sufficient funds to restart the daffodil program while continuing to support the hanging basket program.

Hanging Flower Baskets: The Beautification Commission's hanging





Board of Education

flower basket program dates back to the summer of 2005, when seven experimental flowering baskets were placed in central Darien. On May 19, 2008, the Beautification Commission installed 115 flowering baskets, stretching from the lampposts at the east end of town to those in the Noroton area. Though expensive to water and maintain, the baskets have high visibility and been well received in the community. The learning curve on the baskets was slow at first but has steadily improved. Currently, the planning and execution of the program seem to be reasonably effective, but the Beautification Commission will continue to monitor, evaluate, and fine tune its efforts to have the best flowering baskets in America.

With the addition of the baskets, the Commission essentially did away with the standing planters that had been on the streets for several years (gathering styrofoam cups, cigarettes and other debris). Many of the planters were donated to the middle school and high school; six were transferred to the Veteran's Memorial Circle at Town Hall where they have been planted with annuals to honor Darien's fallen veterans. One of the planters remains at the corner of West Avenue and Post Road.

Signs and News Bins: Commission member Bob Baker continues to work on sign and news bin issues in Darien.

Town-wide Cleanup Days: The Beautification Commission initiated spring and fall cleanups in 2008, enlisting the help of organizations, businesses, and individuals in town.

Future Goals: Each new project that the Beautification Commission undertakes calls for ongoing maintenance and associated expenses. With its limited budget, the Commission is currently involved in virtually all of the programs it can afford to take on. The Commission has raised limited funds through the Adopt-a-Garden program and through voluntary donations from the Garden Club of Darien and several other donors this past year. Commission members believe, however, that there are certain projects that would immeasurably improve the looks of the town for which special funding would be required. They are:

- Complete the Squab Lane project, including establishing walkways and benches at the bottom of the berm to create a park-like setting, improved lighting, and proper pruning (and perhaps replacement) of the giant, aging conifers along the roadway.
- Renovate traffic islands, replacing worn out and broken asphalt curbing with more attractive alternatives.
- Revitalize the railroad berm on Tokeneke Road after the railroad construction project is complete.
- Renovate the Heights Road berm along the railroad tracks. This area was taken care of by the Beautification Commission for many years. Flooding issues in the area have thwarted any significant efforts at renewal. Some weeding, trimming, and landscaping was done by Public Works personnel during the summer.
- Paint train trestles and overpasses a suitable color for Darien.
- Replace deteriorating benches, litter bins and trash baskets throughout town.
- Sink electrical lines in the downtown area.

Darien High School (DHS): *The Alternate Learning Program (ALP)* reached out into the school community more than ever by helping students come together as a group and connecting ALP students with the rest of the school, the town, and the world outside Darien. Nine new students, including two from out of state, entered the program and became valuable members of the community. The first field trip was a combined adventure learning program with the Community Council; both groups learned a great deal about the other, discovering many similarities along the way. The ALP students worked closely with the Kiwanis Club and Person-to-Person on several community service projects and provided countless hours of support to these organizations. ALP graduated five seniors, all of whom headed to college in the fall—two in Connecticut, two in New York, and one in Ohio.

The *Art Program* emphasizes the goals of creative thinking, skill development, problem solving and the appreciation of art history. Through specific instruction and individual experimentation, students develop the ability to utilize the elements and principles of design in the form of personal expression. Selected samples of student work are available for viewing on the Art Department website.

During the 2007-2008 school year, Darien High School students participated in a variety of exhibitions including the Darien Library Exhibit, the Stamford Art Show (where Darien students won the top three prizes in the ceramics category), and the Darien Town Hall Show. In the Darien Arts Council Exhibit students won awards in drawing, painting, photography and

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ceramics; a DHS senior also won a \$1,000 scholarship for outstanding achievement. Students also received: the Darien Kiwanis Award for outstanding achievement in visual art; the Arnold Thurm Photography Award for outstanding achievement in photography; and the Art Department Faculty Awards in two dimensional art and ceramics. A Global Art Award was given to a student involved in the community and in relief efforts for Hurricane Katrina victims. Graduating art students were accepted to many prestigious colleges and art schools of their choice.

In May, the Art, Music, Technology Ed. and Drama Departments hosted the first annual Art Festival. Each department formed student committees that highlighted all aspects of the arts in order to demonstrate and appreciate the arts and provide interactive events for the entire school community. The Art Department did demonstrations on the potter's wheel, hand building with clay, creating a mural painting, innovative face painting, photography, silk screening and more.

The *Business/Computer Department* comprises two areas: Computer Technology and Business Education. Courses offered in 2007–2008 were Beginning Computer Science, Youth and the Law, Business Law, Computer Applications, and Investment/Personal Finance. During the year, the students participated in the U.S. Treasury Department's Inaugural Financial Literacy Challenge: 50% of the students scored in the top 25% in the nation; two students scored in the top 1% in the nation. All qualifying students received certificates from the Treasury Department. Students in the top 1% received medals.

Students in the AP Computer Science class competed in a number of competitions including: the IBM Master the Mainframe; the Yale Real-Time programming (finishing third in a field of eight teams); the Quinnipiac Real-Time programming (taking third place in a field of seventeen teams); and the GE Programming contest, where DHS students finished in the top 20.

The Computer Department proposed two courses to the Curriculum Council: Advanced Programming, which will follow the AP Computer Science course, and an Internet Development course.

The *Guidance Department* used database information to communicate with colleges, students and teachers, in the form of merged file information for mailings. The automated attendance letter program – used to report attendance to parents based on teachers' period attendance reports – has been refined to mail only those notices for students approaching a critical level of absence. The auto-dialer system installed to inform parents of attendance issues that need to be addressed has required only periodic attention to adjust for holiday changes and version upgrades.

Periodic progress reports are now sent electronically by each teacher to parents on an 'as needed' basis, via the Integrate Pro software. Paper progress reports are printed and mailed only to those families who do not have an email address on file. Report cards continue to be printed and mailed over the course of the school year.

Notable accomplishments of the *Foreign Language Department* during the 2007-2008 school year included:

- In the National Spanish Examinations, ten DHS students won gold medals for being in the top 5th percentile in Connecticut.
- In the National French Contest, 11 students ranked in the top ten in the state at various levels of the contest.
- In the State Latin Contest, one student was awarded magna cum laude; two received cum dignitate.
- At the World Language Poetry Contest, in which more than 100 Connecticut schools compete, DHS students won three gold, one silver and four bronze medals.
- Field trips included a French immersion day with lunch at La Bretagne Restaurant in Stamford.
- In November 2007, a group of students visited DHS's exchange school in Qingdao and attended a conference at the #3 Girls School in Shanghai.

The department initiated its first year in the new Mandarin Chinese program. Some 60 students registered for Mandarin I, most of whom will continue on to the next level in September.

The *History Department* continued to share ideas about curriculum and assessment, including the completion of a revision to and Board of Education approval of 300 World Studies and 300 Law and Government, as well as the conclusion of a two-year Board of Education review of the core curriculum.

In addition to collaborative department efforts, individual teachers in the History Department continue to grow professionally and create meaningful educational experiences for their students, including, for example, the development of an art history strand for the Western Civilization course.



In October, the *China Exchange Program* hosted ten students and two teachers from Shanghai. Community events included a dinner for host families and community members to welcome the Chinese delegation to Darien High School; a night of reflection where Chinese and Darien exchange students did a presentation on their experiences; and an Evening of China, at which DHS exchange students exhibited work and made presentations about their experience in China.

Darien High School's Qingdao #58 exchange will continue in 2008-2009. Darien will host a delegation of twelve students and two teachers; in turn, DHS will send a delegation of 12 students and two teachers to Qingdao.

Math Department highlights included:

- CAPT score of 79%.
- 96% of AP students scored 3 or higher on the AP exam; 66% had a score of 5.
- SAT math score of 598 (third highest in state).
- SAT level 2 score of 682.
- Two students placed first in the Fairfield County Stock Market Game.

The DHS Math Team placed 6th out of 20 teams in the Fairfield County Mathematics League, 2nd out of 12 in the Connecticut State Association of Mathematics Leagues competition and 5th out of 16 in the New England Association of Mathematics Leagues competition. Three students received certificates of distinction in the American Mathematics contest and were invited to participate in the American Mathematics Invitational Examination.

The *High School Library/Media Center* continues to be filled with students

throughout the day. Teacher preference in encouraging students to utilize computer labs and mobile computer carts which offer access to DHS online resources in a quieter learning atmosphere has resulted in a decline in the number of classes visiting the library. Although circulation of books also declined during the year, use of online subscription databases that support curriculum and the research process increased.

Several noteworthy changes occurred in the library this year. The library website underwent revisions with tremendous support from the school webmaster. Particular effort was made to make the DHS main page friendly to those using Apple computers, cell phones and those using programs for visual disabilities. Daily updates were made to the DHS main page to allow it to serve as the main message center for the school. With the addition of photos of student activities, streaming Blue Wave News video and posting copies of the *Neirad*, the website continues to serve both student and adult populations. Improvements also were made to the DHS library website to enable better use of available electronic resources. Changes to the layout for the online databases page were greeted favorably.

The DHS Library was the recipient of a "We the People Picturing America" grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Library Association. This program is intended to "promote the teaching, study, and understanding of American art and history in K-12 schools, and to facilitate interdisciplinary partnerships between school library media specialists, art teachers, classroom instructors, and other educators." The



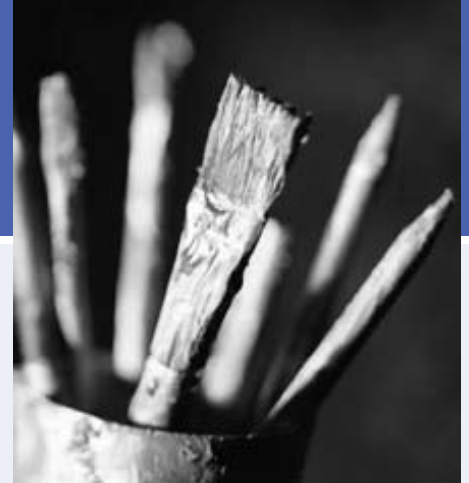
materials from the program have been used extensively by the co-curricular American Literature and American History teachers.

Video production courses saw increased enrollment; as a result, five sections were offered. Media Studies components include course instruction, Blue Wave News, filming of school events, and programming for Cablevision Channel 78. The video production studio continues to provide programming for homerooms throughout the school year. During the year, Blue Wave News produced 13 programs as well as three election specials and numerous announcements from various departments. WAVE TV (Cablevision Channel 78) recently implemented an all digital signal. The Blue Wave News team won third place in the Area Nine Cable Council Educational Access Awards in the "School News" category. Two graduating seniors were awarded first place in the Hartford Courant/Fox 61's Student News Contest for their reporting on John McCain's presidential campaign.

Noteworthy activities for the Darien High School *Vocal Music Department* included:

- The DHS barbershop quartet – "The Harmonic Xperience" – partnered with the Bridgeport chapter of the International Barbershop Harmony Society in a music outreach program.
- The Vocal Music Department collaborated with Theatre 308 to create original vocal music for the production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.
- The All-Town Choral Festival featured performances by the Concert Choir, Tudor Singers, THX and Bella Cantas barbershop quartets, Nutmeg Express

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jazz choir, and the men's and women's contemporary a cappella groups.

- Concert Choir and Tudor Singers were featured performers at the school's annual Black History Month assembly.
- DHS hosted the Chanticleer Youth Choral Festival, featuring the multiple Grammy Award-winning men's vocal ensemble, Chanticleer. Students from Westhill High School in Stamford and Staples High School in Westport also took part in the festival.
- The Concert Choir, Tudor Singers, Jazz Band and Orchestra participated in the Great East Adjudicated Music Festival in West Springfield, Massachusetts. All groups performed with distinction, with the Concert Choir receiving a gold rating and the Tudor Singers receiving a platinum rating.

The 60-piece *DHS Orchestra* had another successful year performing at the annual winter and spring concerts. The *Pops Strings Ensemble*, which consisted of 20 members, performed at annual school concerts, as well as at Colgate-Palmolive in New York City and a Sound Tigers hockey game. Two freshmen were selected as members of the Fairfield County String Ensemble, an event open to students in grades 6-9. Three DHS students participated in the Western Regional Festival Orchestra; one was selected as a member of the All-State Orchestra.

The *Physical Education Program* focused on personal fitness and lifetime sports. Aerobics, badminton, tennis, golf and weight training were stressed while selected team sports provided opportunities for students to experience the benefits of regular physical

activity. DHS fielded 33 varsity, 20 junior varsity, and 13 freshman teams – in 21 different sports. Nearly 82% of the student body participated in at least one sport. Blue Wave teams brought home ten state titles, six league crowns, and 12 divisional championships during the year. In addition, three Darien coaches were named "Coach of the Year." Darien also was selected to receive the Michael's Cup as the state's most outstanding Class MM athletic program. In addition, for the first time Darien was selected as the overall winner for the entire state. The FCIAC Athletics' Cup also was awarded to DHS as the top athletic program in the conference for 2007-2008.

Darien citizens undertook a major fund raising campaign to install artificial turf on the varsity baseball field and to undertake substantial upgrades to the softball field. These projects were completed during the summer of 2007, enabling DHS baseball and softball teams to compete on the new facilities when the school year began.

The *Health Education* curriculum is organized to help students develop the knowledge and skills needed to deal with today's complex health-related issues. Topics such as nutrition, communicable diseases, AIDS, substance abuse, first aid and CPR are included in separate quarter-length courses.

Science Department accomplishments during 2007-2008 included:

- Approval of a new elective in forensic science.
- The Authentic Science Research Program completed its seventh year with a highly successful science symposium and its

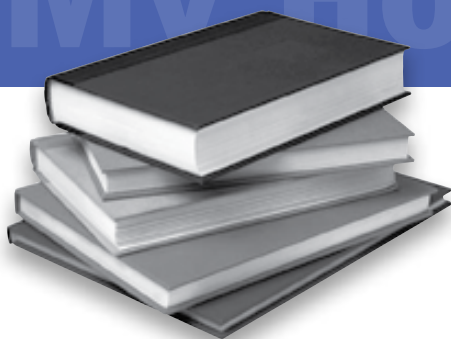
students scheduled to participate in a wide variety of summer internships, college courses, and other research opportunities.

- The 300 level chemistry course was completed. The S-drive, where the work of each teacher is stored and accessible to all members of the department, continues to grow and improve. Collaboration among teachers resulting from this shared arena has improved learning for all students of science.
- Seventy-eight percent of the students who took AP exams in physics, chemistry, biology and environmental science scored a 4 or above.

The *DHS Health Office* began utilizing SNAP software to log in students under various categories as they make use of the health office. This new computerized nursing documentation software system enables the nursing staff to track individual students' activities as well as their immunization records while maintaining strict confidentiality and adherence to FERPA and HIPPA regulations.

The *Art Club* met weekly in an open-studio where students were able to work on art-related projects of their choice, as well as participate in special art events including DHS's First Annual Arts Festival.

Building with Books is part of a larger national program which has three main goals: 1) performing local community service 2) raising funds to build schools in developing countries and 3) expanding knowledge of the global community. Students performed more than 1,500 hours



of community service after school and on weekends at Darien Book Aid, Person to Person and other locations. They also participated in joint service projects with students from other chapters of Building with Books twice during the year. Students raised more than \$3,000 towards building schools in developing countries by hosting the Jazz Combo, selling “Blue Wave” foam hands at sporting events, selling *iflurtz* surveys to the student body, and holding a “buy a brick” program where “bricks” could be purchased to build a school during the holiday season. Several DHS students went to Malawi for two weeks to help build a new schoolhouse. Student participation in Building with Books averaged 32 members per month.

The *Class of 2008* participated in the annual senior/senior prom at the Darien Senior Center and junior-senior basketball game. Class members raised money towards the class gift of an annual scholarship for a graduating DHS senior.

Elected representatives of the *Class of 2011* organized a fundraiser to sell 32 oz. water bottles at sporting and other school-related events. The class also participated in several community service projects, and donated gifts totaling \$900 to the Angel Tree project sponsored by the Noroton Presbyterian Church.

During the second semester students supported a request submitted to www.donorschoose.org by an elementary school in Bridgeport. The project was selected due to the proximity of the school and the needs of the students. The request was for 90 reams of copy paper to help teachers create a workbook for students in grades 2-4 preparing for the CMTs.

The *Computer Club* was reactivated during the year. Students met weekly to work on websites and write animation and gaming code. The club will incorporate online computer programming competitions in the coming year.

The *Dance Dance Revolution Club (DDR)* met after school throughout the year to learn and practice new DDR moves and compete against each other. Everyone enjoyed the camaraderie and friendly competition.

The *Darien Times Teen Edition* began in the spring as a partnership between the DHS introductory journalism class and the Darien Times newspaper, with the launch of the new Darien Times Teen Edition. The Teen Edition, written for and by Darien High School students, covers such topics as study trips abroad, new driving laws for teenagers, sports rivalries, and underage drinking and the prom. It also includes profiles of graduating seniors every June. Through this collaboration with a professional newspaper, students gained work experience as part of a professional team of real journalists, had professionally published pieces to show future employers and colleges, and earned the recommendations of working professionals.

Debate Team meetings are spent practicing in mini-debates and discussing current events, debate strategies and tournament logistics. The team, composed of four seniors, four juniors, four sophomores, and eight freshmen, attended five regular season state tournaments and the state championship tournament. Darien hosted a tournament in March. The DHS team won two team awards and three individual speaker awards.

The *Junior Engineering and Technical Society (JETS) Team* had an extremely successful year in 2007-2008. The team of five seniors, two sophomores and one freshman participated in the 2008 TEAMS competition on March 17 at the University of New Haven. The competition included an intense scientific, engineering, and mathematical problem-solving test consisting of 80 multiple-choice questions and four free-response problems taken during a four-hour period. The DHS team placed first in the state in their division, enabling them to qualify for the national competition. The free-response portion of the TEAMS challenge determined the rankings for the national competition. The Darien JETS finished an impressive 22nd place out of the teams that qualified throughout the nation.

Members of *Kids Giving Back* focused on building a stronger commitment with Habitat for Humanity of Coastal Fairfield County. Fifteen students participated in each of seven workdays, and approximately 140 students participated on workdays at some time during the year. The students also assisted a video production student with the filming of an independent project on Habitat for Humanity.

Darien High School's *Model U.N. Club* met throughout the year and also conducted fundraising activities. Four student members attended the Model UN Conference at Stuyvesant High School in Manhattan; three of the students were given Outstanding Delegate Awards as a result of their participation.

During the 2007-2008 school year, the *National Honor Society (NHS)* inducted 28 new members. Noteworthy activities
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included community participation in Stepping Stones, Habitat for Humanity, Diversity Day, Parents' Night, Stamford Hospital, Person to Person, Special Olympics, Tutoring, Food Drives, Shoveling for Seniors, Depot, Red Cross, Library Inventory, Pegasus Therapeutic Riding, and Safe Rides. Honor Society members also participated in the DHS graduation ceremony and NHS Mathematics Individual Tutoring.

Neirad had a highly productive year highlighted by the long-awaited arrival of a new online news source, *Neirad Enilno*. (In keeping with the inverted spelling of *Neirad*, it was decided to spell "online" backwards too!) The website (<http://dariensps.org/neirad>) publishes as many as 20 stories each month. This digital platform has given students a new publishing opportunity to help take *Neirad* 24/7. *Neirad Enilno* has become the third most visited webpage on the DHS website behind only the DHS main page and the faculty list. Since February, the *Neirad* website has been viewed 47,000 times in 17 different countries, including Canada, Switzerland, China, Kenya and the Ukraine.

Neirad also completed a massive undertaking to digitize all 419 available back issues (dating back to 1939). The scanning process is now complete and the print archives have been brought online in their entirety (<http://dariensps.org/neirad/archive.php>). Students are in the process of typing summaries of each issue to further facilitate content searching. This new resource has given a second life to this important slice of DHS history. Finally, *Neirad* has established a professional partnership with leading journalists who have shared their expertise through visits to Advanced Journalism

classes. The students were also fortunate to go on field trips to the New York Times headquarters and "60 Minutes" studios.

Theatre 308 once again had a very busy and successful year. *Theatre 308* student officers continued to run "Open Mic Night," a monthly fund-raising event held at The Depot. In the fall, *Theatre 308* produced an avant-garde version of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with a cast of approximately 30 students and an equal number of students working on a variety of backstage crews. The production featured several innovations including original student-composed music, on-stage musicians and the use of a Segway. In the spring, *Theatre 308* produced a rousing production of *The Music Man*, with a cast of approximately 45 students. A comparable number of students worked backstage or in the student orchestra, and the entire DHS marching band surprised the audience by joining the cast for the finale.

Theatre 308 concluded the year with two student productions held in the Little Theatre late in May. Six student directors/choreographers (selected through an application process) were given the go-ahead to produce a short piece of theatre or other type of performance. Entries included short one-acts plays, original dance choreography and an original film.

Weekend Alternatives included a badminton tournament and paint-ball events in Brewster, NY.

The Darien High School yearbook, *Dariannus*, continued its successful run, with a beautiful all-color 240-page publication for

the DHS community. Technology upgrades at the new high school made it possible to go completely on-line with yearbook production last year; this year, nearly 700 yearbooks were ordered through an online service.

Middlesex Middle School served 1117 students during 2007-08. There were a total of twelve academic teams composed of 389 6th graders, 357 7th graders, and 371 8th graders. Additional sections were created at the 6th and 8th grade levels to accommodate the numbers of students in those grades. Consistent with past structures, these academic teams consisted of teachers from the following academic areas: English, math, science, social studies, and foreign language. Within the team configuration, students attended academic classes, special area classes, and field trip activities. Teaming is an integral part of the day-to-day life at Middlesex.

During the 2007-2008 school year the middle school continued to focus on effective assessments, enhancing classroom instructional practices, and incorporating technology into classroom lessons. Through the lens of 21st Century Skills, teachers worked together to include these skills in the curricular areas. Staff development time, faculty meetings, and classroom observation opportunities have been valuable sources of time for deeper discussion around these areas. Some social studies and English teachers participated in small group activities that focused on improving students' writing abilities. Common assessments, scoring rubrics, the Write Traits, and "higher cognitive demand" continue to be common terms among staff and students. Several teachers have been integral partners with other district personnel in efforts to move the instructional technology forward at Middlesex.



Throughout the year, staff members were provided with the time and support to become more comfortable with the notion of learning together and creating demonstration lessons and units for teachers to use in an effort to further the use of technology. Teachers continue to use the Teacher Web website to post their expectations, weekly lesson outlines, and homework as a means of keeping the lines of communication open to parents. Feedback from parents and students with regard to the websites continues to be positive and appreciated.

Special Education programs continued to be integrated into the Middlesex community. Co-taught classes were present at all three grade levels across several teams. The co-teaching model has been in effect since 1992 in isolated situations; however, as of 2002-2003 the resource room model shifted to reflect a more inclusive experience for all students. In 2007-2008, specifically, there were three co-taught teams on all three grade levels that served students through the co-teaching model. Considerable professional growth has taken place among the staff in order to meet the needs of all students who are receiving services in their classes alongside their peers. Staff believes that all students benefit in classrooms with two certified teachers.

Citizenship continued to be an ongoing goal of the Middlesex community. Students are held accountable to The Student Code of Behavior handbook and the school's Five Beliefs, which are prominently posted throughout the building to serve as reminders of expected behaviors for all students. This past year, work continued in the development of a curriculum for the Developmental Guidance program. Through

this program, guidance counselors work in the classroom with the team teachers to guide an activity that reflects the age-level concerns for students. This program took place on a quarterly basis at each grade level. The student council continues to play a major role in helping to create an awareness of good citizenship and civic responsibility through the many fundraisers and drives that were organized for the benefit of others in Darien and surrounding communities. Candy cane drives, Penny Wars, and Spiritwear clothing sales enabled Middlesex students to make donations to Operation Hope, Americares, American Cancer Society, the ONE Organization, and other charitable organizations. Toys for Tots provided more than 700 new toys for children in surrounding communities. In addition, several individual teams initiated contact with local charitable organizations and offered their services as a means of proactively meeting the needs of others. Once again, Middlesex was one of the nation's top fundraising schools with regard to raising money and awareness during the "Trick or Treat" program for UNICEF, a program run and supported by middle school parents. In the spring of 2008, a connection was made between Middlesex and the children of Darien, Panama. A fundraiser was held, and during the summer of 2008 a Middlesex teacher went to Panama to deliver the school's donation – and good will.

Middle school students demonstrated excellence in both academic and competitive areas; as a result Middlesex was nominated as a Blue Ribbon School. Faculty and students alike anxiously await the final outcome on this nomination. CMT and ERB scores reached high levels, several students earned

Presidential Physical Fitness Awards, and students, once again, scored well in the annual COLT world language competitions. The Camerata Singers and Jazz Band competed at the Western Connecticut Regional competition and received superior ratings. Students also actively participated in debate, spelling bee and the National Geography Bee. Middlesex also had state level winners in the World Language Poetry Contest. All 8th graders completed a major research project for the Middlesex Science exhibition. In addition, many 7th graders participated in the Johns Hopkins CTY Program.

Two overnight trips were held in addition to several school-related day trips. The 8th grade students spent three days in Boston in October, a trip that established the foundation for the social studies curriculum. Because of the number of students in the 6th grade, the traditional "Colebrook trip" – now called "The Expo" – once again required students to be spread across two Nature's Classroom sites. Three teams went to Colebrook, while one team went to Ivoryton. Other field trips included the Museum of Natural History, Norwalk Maritime Center, Dance Asia performances, and science museums in New York City. Students participated in more than 50 club offerings, which are built into the school day on a biweekly basis. Winter and spring concerts spotlighted the efforts of students in the band, chorus, and orchestra. In addition, the sports programs involved a significant number of students throughout the school year.

As spring approached, attention focused on transitioning the 8th graders into high school and welcoming incoming 6th graders. Each
(continued)



of the elementary schools spent a morning at Middlesex to help with the transition process. Parents were invited to 6th and 9th grade open houses to learn about the transition process and the programs available to students at those grade levels. Once again, the 8th Grade Promotion Day marked a special day for Middlesex 8th graders, several of whom shared their reflections, hopes and dreams through a video montage.

Elementary Schools: In 2007-2008, the overall enrollment in the Darien Public Schools was relatively stable, although there were fluctuations in the student population at specific schools. A study of elementary building capacity revealed that enrollment would increase at Holmes and Hindley Schools; accordingly, some modifications in building utilization were needed to accommodate additional class sections. In January 2008, Tokeneke staff and students made a smooth transition to their beautiful new building.

The Darien K-5 Public Schools continued to focus on educational improvement to assure that all students have access to challenging and enriching instructional programming. There is ongoing review and refinement of curriculum and instructional practice in all content areas accompanied by targeted professional development to increase cognitive demand and cultivate students' high-order thinking processes.

Implementation of the workshop model of instruction for reading and writing continued to foster children's development as authentic readers and writers. Instruction is tailored to the unique abilities and needs of each student. With the workshop model, students

take a more active role in their learning and experience stronger academic growth. During the year, two programs were piloted for word study that resulted in the adoption of Words Their Way for grades 3-5 and Fountas and Pinnell for grades K-2 for full implementation in 2008-2009. Teachers also discussed shifting to a workshop model for mathematics to better facilitate differentiated instruction to meet varied student needs.

During the 2007-2008 school year, content area committees worked to expand and refine formative assessment measures to allow for more precise monitoring of students' performance and growth in reading, writing, and mathematics. The long range goal is to assess all students three times a year to demonstrate academic growth and identify areas for targeted instruction. The Inform data management system will be used to facilitate the process.

In its second year of implementation, the Darien Technology Plan provided SmartBoard presentation systems to all classrooms in grades 3, 4 and 5. Teachers at all grade levels have become proficient at using the systems to integrate technology resources into their lessons.

Professional development to improve instruction continued on multiple levels for all K-5 staff. Major topics are addressed on staff development days accompanied by periods for teachers to work collaboratively with their peers to reflect upon, evaluate, and advance their instructional practice. Content area specialists worked with grade level teams and individual teachers at other times to target specific areas for enhancement. Teachers supplemented their knowledge



and expertise by attending a wide array of local, national and international professional development programs during the summer. Many of their summer experiences were funded by the Sydnor and Miriam Reiss Teachers' Fund for Further Study, and by Barbara Harrington Grants through the Darien Advocates for Education of the Gifted.

Enrichment programs and field trips continue to enhance learning in a variety of content areas. Trips to local nature centers, a variety of museums, and live theater performances embellished the classroom curricula. In-school enrichment programs were offered in science, music appreciation, and geography with other programs reinforcing social skills (anti-bullying) and safety strategies. Student wellness initiatives addressed physical fitness, healthy eating, and cleanliness habits.

In 2007-2008, Darien's elementary schools continued to be lively centers of learning where children are nurtured and challenged to extend beyond basic knowledge and skills and apply their learning in meaningful activities. To support this environment, teachers continue to improve their professional knowledge and expertise through collaboration and reflective practice.





Building Department

The Darien Building Department is comprised of a building official, an assistant building official, an office administrator, a secretary and a part-time building official.

Building activity in Darien during fiscal 2007-2008 continued to be active although the financial situation may have an effect on future construction. The estimated value of construction represented by 820 building permits issued during the fiscal year for residential, commercial and miscellaneous permits totaled \$145,990,000. Fees collected, including miscellaneous fees, totaled \$1,473,061.

The estimated average construction for new homes in Darien was \$1,116,225 in fiscal 2007-2008 compared to \$1,028,845 in the prior fiscal year. There were 37 dwellings demolished, and 49 new dwellings were built. Darien real estate continued to be very much in demand. With no open land

available, demolition of existing dwellings will increase as land values exceed dwelling values.

During fiscal 2007-2008, the Building Department issued 794 electrical permits, 806 heating/ventilation/air-conditioning permits, 425 plumbing permits, 420 certificates of occupancy, 322 certificates of compliance, and four fair permits.



Advisory Commission on Coastal Waters

The stewardship of Darien's beautiful, valuable coastal waters is the ongoing responsibility of the Advisory Commission of Coastal Waters, a commission that advises the Darien Board of Selectmen on many complex coastal issues in order to ensure that the thousands of Darien residents who enjoy Long Island Sound can continue to do so for many years to come. Since all of Darien's coastal waters are state and the federally owned, the Advisory Commission works closely with numerous government bodies.

The Advisory Commission on Coastal Waters had six formal meetings during fiscal 2007-2008; members also attended numerous other meetings in Darien and in other communities. Commission members are active in the Connecticut DEP Boating Advisory Council, the EPA/ New York/Connecticut Citizens Advisory Committee of the Long Island Sound Study, the Connecticut Harbor Management Commission, the Connecticut Long Island Sound Council, and the Norwalk Shellfish Commission. Members also met with federal, state, and regional officials that are influencing Long Island Sound and its environment.

Issues the Advisory Commission focused on in fiscal 2007-2008 included:

Shellfish Management: Clams were transplanted in Scott's Cove; Commission members worked with the Connecticut Aquaculture Division on water quality, a shoreline survey, and on the clarification of shellfish deeds.

Flare-up Day: This event, which was held at Weed Beach in May, gave 150 Darien
(continued)

Darien Building Department 2007 - 2008

		Number of permits issued		Estimated Construction Value	
		2006-2007	2007-2008	2006-2007	2007-2008
New Dwellings	45	49		\$46,298,000	\$54,695,000
Residential Add & alter	445	396		76,701,000	60,777,000
Commercial	46	59		47,104,000	23,002,000
All others	340	316		7,823,000	7,516,000
TOTALS:	876	820		\$177,926,000	\$145,990,000



The Depot

boaters and their families an opportunity to fire emergency flares and extinguish fires. The Darien Sail and Power Squadron co-hosted.

Pier Size Town Standard and Permits:

Upon the recommendation of the Advisory Commission and the Darien Harbor Master, the Board of Selectmen approved a standard for pier size off Darien shores into Long Island Sound, which the Commission hopes the state will support. Eight pier permits also were reviewed.

Connecticut Waters No Discharge

Zone Designation: The Advisory Commission supported this designation, which has been approved by the EPA and recognized at a dedication ceremony by Governor M. Jodi Rell.

LNG/Broadwater:

The Advisory Commission continued to monitor Broadwater Energy's proposed liquefied natural gas (LNG) project. The project, which Darien opposed, is currently under federal appeal.

Dredging Issues:

The Army Corps of Engineers and EPA are developing new dredging standards for Long Island Sound, which the Advisory Commission is monitoring; Connecticut has a new law which could help to support some of Darien's future dredging activities.

Coastal Issues: Commission members developed a list of 12 important coastal issues that will be submitted to the Board of Selectmen for approval and support.



In 1989 a group of Darien parents and high school students saved a historic train station slated for demolition.

Starting with a dream, they created the Depot, a drug and alcohol free teen center. Nearly 20 years later, the Depot is overseen by an adult advisory board and executive director and run by a student governing board under the supervision of a fulltime director and part-time staff. The adult board focuses primarily on fundraising, capital building projects and operations management. The student board is responsible for day-to-day programming, creating and enforcing the rules of conduct, and ongoing participation in community outreach. Many town organizations depend on the "Depot Kids" to help with their events and fundraisers.

Functions planned by students include theme dance parties; band nights; Wii competitions; Guitar Hero/Rock Band competitions; "Open Mic" nights; IMPROV, outdoor movie nights; sports teams movie nights and much more. In addition, the Depot is home to Red Cross-sponsored Safe Rides; Kids in Crisis Youth Corps; YWCA sponsored FunBusters and Life Skills. During the fiscal year, members of the freshmen/sophomore class got together and planned a "Cowboys & Indians" dance. A committee of both grades was formed and the rest is history! A great time was had by all, with 163 students dancing the night away at the teen center.

The Depot is a valuable town asset that provides Darien teenagers with a supervised substance-free environment in which to socialize. The members of the student governing board benefit from their unique roles and responsibilities while the student population at large benefits from the wide array of programming designed by their peers. The Depot is open five days a week to all Darien high school students, whether they are public, private or home-schooled. For more information, visit the Depot website at dariendepot.org

EMS/ Post 53

Emergency medical care in Darien is a team effort involving police, ambulance, and fire personnel – all working together with the single goal of providing the highest possible level of pre-hospital care for the town's citizens.

When citizens call 9-1-1 for a medical emergency, they activate a coordinated, tiered level of response. On the scene within two to three minutes is a trained medical First Response Darien police officer followed shortly by a Post 53 Advanced Life Support EMT-Intermediate (EMT-I) in a fly car and one of three Post 53 ambulances. The Fire Department responds when needed, providing additional trained medical response personnel as well as scene protection and extrication expertise, especially at motor vehicle accidents. In potentially life-threatening situations, paramedics are dispatched simultaneously arriving on scene within minutes of a 9-1-1 call.

The core of Darien Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is the nationally known, award-winning young adult organization, Post 53, comprised of 50 highly trained Darien High School students who, with their adult Advanced Life Support advisors, deliver free round-the-clock emergency ambulance service to the citizens of Darien. Career paramedics from Stamford Emergency Medical Services (SEMS) provide drug and advanced airway interventions when needed.

Extensive and continuing training is crucial to the high quality of patient care at every level. Membership in Post 53 is highly competitive with 15 members selected from each high school class. Those chosen receive approximately 150 hours of training to become certified at age 16 as emergency medical technicians. Adult member EMT-Is receive an additional 80 hours of training and are certified to provide an advanced level of cardiac, airway management and shock treatment. Darien police officers are trained as medical First Responders by Post 53 Instructors. Since March, 1998, they have

been equipped with and trained in the use of the automated external defibrillators (AED) which, when applied early in some cases of cardiac arrest, can reverse a potentially fatal heart rhythm. The prompt use of AEDs has resulted in several saves, proving their worth as an important adjunct to the entire emergency response system in Darien.

Post 53 is a 100% volunteer organization; as such, it does not receive financial support from the Town of Darien or the United Way. Post 53 members earn a portion of their annual operating budget through fundraising events such as the fall "Limette Doble Memorial Art Show" and the Memorial Day "Community Celebration and Food Fair." In short, they work and earn as much as they can before asking others for help. When patients need the services of paramedics, they are billed, at a State of Connecticut-approved rate for services.

Working together as an efficient, highly trained team within the statewide EMS system, Darien Emergency Medical Services responded to 1177 calls in fiscal 2007-2008.



Darien EMS 2007-2008 Call Statistics



Medical: 667

Trauma: 510

Total Number of Responses: 1,177



Finance Department

The Finance Department once again received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada. During fiscal 2007-2008, the department continued to work to improve operations and implement new financial standards as they are promulgated.

Office of the Tax Collector: The October 1, 2006 net Grand List collectible, after all lawful additions, deductions and corrections, totaled \$89,850,661.01. Collections amounted to \$ 89,314,483.38. Remaining uncollected at June 30, 2008 was \$536,177.63.

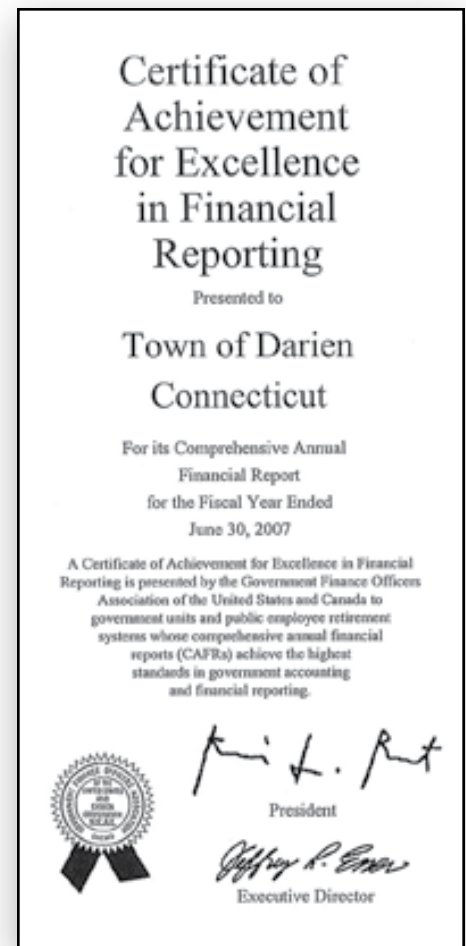
During fiscal 2007-08 a total of \$568,246.20 in back taxes, \$368,041.86 in delinquent interest and \$1,640.00 in lien/fees were collected. In June, liens were recorded on 72 properties with unpaid taxes.

Other collections received by the Tax Collector included \$2,479,316.82 for Sewer Service Charges and \$27,314.04 in delinquent interest and lien fees. In addition, Sewer Assessment Contract collections totaled \$774,582.60 for assessment charges and \$3,079.43 in delinquent interest and lien fees.

Assessor's Office: The primary function of the Assessor's Office is to set values on taxable and tax exempt real estate and personal property for the purposes of establishing the annual Grand List, the basis for the collection of Darien's local property tax. The development of the Grand List is maintained daily requiring the Assessor's staff to have a strong background in

fundamental appraisal methods in order to discover, define and defend the variety of taxable and tax exempt properties in Darien. The Assessor's Office maintains sales and permits information on more than 7,100 real estate parcels; establishes annual market values and prorates assessments to more than 18,000 motor vehicles; and monitors the ever-changing assessment list of more than 1,100 business personal property taxpayers, a process that involves the annual audit of 20-25 accounts. In addition, the Assessor's Office updates exemption of citizens who are eligible for tax relief as a result of their status as a veteran, senior citizen and/or a disabled citizen as recognized through the Veterans Administration and the Social Security Administration.

Preparation of the October 1, 2008 revaluation commenced with the release of a request for proposal by the Assessor. Darien received three bids to update the five-year, state-mandated revaluation, selecting the Tyler Company to assist in this effort. Software upgrades with more than 7,000 photos of each and every improved property in town were completed during the winter



Property Levies and Collections – Last Ten Years

Fiscal Year	Tax Rate in Mills	Current Tax Collections	Percent of Taxes Collected
1998-99	17.05	48,794,622	99.24%
1999-00	17.72	51,475,658	99.00%
2000-01	13.06	54,238,998	99.30%
2001-02	14.02	58,217,146	99.33%
2002-03	14.98	62,558,723	99.36%
2003-04	16.00	67,329,390	99.34%
2004-05	11.95	73,900,632	99.51%
2005-06	13.02	81,797,020	99.50%
2006-07	13.40	84,973,764	99.40%
2007-08	13.87	89,314,483	99.40%



Town of Darien – Net Grand List Comparison

The October 1, 2007 Net Grand List* reflects a 70% assessed value of \$6,606,255,385, an increase of \$102,091,678 over last year's list prior to the actions of the Board of Assessment Appeals. The following is a comparison between the October 1, 2006 Grand List and the October 1, 2007 Grand List:

Category	2006	2007	% Change
Real Estate	\$6,220,427,550	\$6,310,307,090	\$89,879,540
Motor Vehicle	\$ 209,533,525	\$ 218,602,845	\$ 9,069,320
Personal Prop.	\$ 75,742,942	\$ 78,793,100	\$ 3,050,158
Gross Total	\$6,505,704,017	\$6,607,703,035	\$101,999,018
(-)Exemptions	\$ - 1,540,310	\$ - 1,447,650	
Net Grand List	\$6,504,163,707	\$6,606,255,385	+\$102,091,678

*The Grand List comparison is based on the State required '07 M-13 report dated 1/31/08 before Board of Assessment Appeals hearings of last year and the before Board of Assessment hearings of this year.

of 2007-2008. Over the last three years, the Assessor's Office has worked closely with Planning & Zoning and the Building Department, using their CityView database to enhance the confidence associated with assessment changes mailed to each taxpayer. As a result, the number of appeals to the Darien Board of Assessment Appeals has been reduced. The integrity of each assessor's record is greatly enhanced with proper maintenance of both the CityView system and the appraisal software used in the Assessor's Office. In addition, the staff was introduced to Arcview, a newly installed planners mapping software that, with proper training, will further complement the resources available for the implementation of the 2008 town-wide revaluation.

The Assessor's Office made changes to 520 real estate parcels for work performed during the assessment year in addition to 65 certificate of occupancy pro rates. More than 1,300 information statements were mailed to households with occupants over the age of 65 in an attempt to increase applications to the local senior property tax relief program. Currently, Darien has fewer than 200 households receiving tax relief due to their limited income. The income guideline for program eligibility is \$58,800 for a

single applicant and \$65,500 for a married couple, including Social Security. Program applicants must submit their federal income tax form to be considered for tax relief.

Real Estate: This year's Grand List includes an \$89.9 million increase to the real estate section due to the continuous high volume of building permits and new construction activity that has occurred throughout Darien. The Assessor's Office staff has reviewed several thousand of Darien's 6,993 parcels and will be mailing assessment change notices to property owners. All taxpayers with increased assessments are offered the opportunity to file an appeal before the Board of Assessment Appeals.

Motor Vehicles: Darien has total of 17,777 motor vehicles on the '07 Grand List, a decrease of 12 from last year.

Personal Property: Darien has 1,124 business personal accounts with an assessed value of \$78.8 million, a \$3.0 million assessment increase over last year. The office has again hired a consultant to perform a field audit which continued through the spring of 2008.

Fire Marshal's Office

The Darien Fire Marshal's Office, established in 1980 as a fulltime department, represents and works closely with Darien's three volunteer fire departments: Noroton Fire Department, Noroton Heights Fire Department, and the Darien Fire Department.

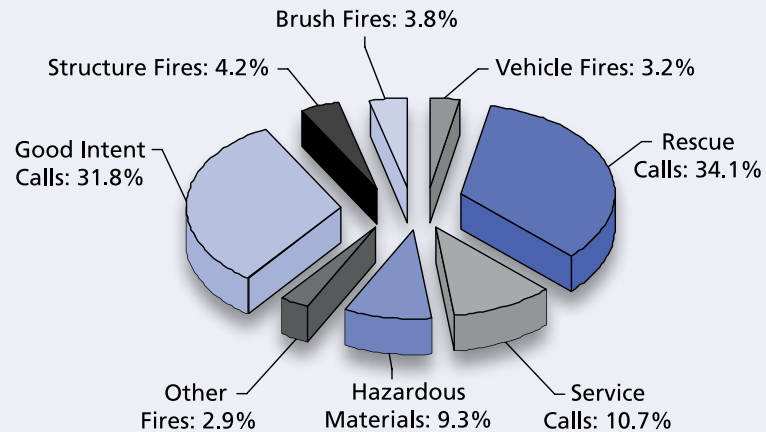
The Fire Marshal's Office is responsible for annual inspections of all buildings, other than one- or two-family dwellings; fire investigations; plan review and construction inspections of all buildings, other than one- or two family homes; fire prevention education programs; permits for blasting and tank removals; inspection and certification of hazardous material transport vehicles housed in Darien; inspection and certification of all day care centers, nursery schools, convalescent centers and liquor permit establishments; and other assorted duties. The Fire Marshal, Deputy Fire Marshal and Fire Inspector are certified by the State of Connecticut and mandated by state statute to obtain 90 hours of educational training every three years.

Highlights of activities undertaken by the Fire Marshal's Office during fiscal 2007-2008 include:

- Worked closely with Turner Construction to ensure the timely opening of the new Tokeneke School
- Conducted numerous blasting inspections to ensure full compliance by blasters; met with neighbors to address questions, concerns and complaints with regard to blasting procedures.
- Undertook construction inspections on a number of major renovation and new construction projects downtown, several

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Breakdown of Calls for Fiscal Year 2008



of which have been completed, thus giving a new look to the downtown area.

- Worked in conjunction with Darien High School administration and Darien Police to conduct a highly successful lock-down drill in May.

Investigations:

- Fire in a garage on Long Neck Point Road caused by improperly discarded oily rags.
- Fire in the basement of a Middlesex Road house caused by an oil burner used for a hot tub.
- Fire in the Town Hall Arts Council studio.
- Barn fire on Ridge Acres Road.
- Attic fire in a home on Middlesex Road.
- Kitchen fire at A Taste of Italy.
- Suspicious van fire on Hoyt Street.
- Fire in the library of a home on Allwood Road.
- Flash fire at Darien Rowayton Bank; caused by propane leak.

- Bedroom fire on Raymond Street.
- Boat fire at the Darien Boat Club gas dock
- Structure fire on Rings End Road.

During the fiscal year, inspections were undertaken on numerous completed construction projects, including: Tokeneke School, HSBC Bank, Fairfield County Savings Bank, BMW showroom addition, Tokeneke Club renovations and sprinkler system installation, Noroton Fire Department addition, 1014-1020 Post Road Genovese Project, Country Club of Darien pool and snack bar renovations, a new office

building at 70 Tokeneke Road, Darien Fire Department elevator installation and addition, Matsuri Grill, Bruegger's, Robek's, Ole Mole Restaurant, Williams and Warren, Gofer Ice Cream, Lucy Store, Convent of St. Birgitta renovation, and Merrill Lynch.

Special Inspections/Events:

- The July fireworks show for Woodway Country Club required that the Fire Marshal's Office be on site from the arrival of fireworks until clean-up at the end of the show; a full inspection of the show's set-up was undertaken to ensure full compliance with all safety regulations.
- All rides at the Hindley Happening were inspected for proper installation and operation
- All rides at the Darien Days Carnival were checked for proper installation and operation; in addition, all food tents were inspected for compliance with applicable regulations.
- Inspections were made at the high school and middle school plays, as well as at the Post 53 Food Fair, the Darien High School Post Prom Party, a fireworks show for a wedding at Giovanni's, the Ox Ridge Horse Show, and at the Power Squadron flare-up demonstration in May, an event held every three years to teach the boating public how to properly fire off a flare and use a fire extinguisher.

Darien Fire Marshal's Office Activity

Activity	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008
Blasting permits issued	19	14	7
Liquor permits signed and certified	34	36	35
Fuel oil and L.P. gas tank permits issued	114	84	97
Blasting site inspections	286	248	126
Tank inspections	61	54	59
Fire reports filed with the State Fire Marshal	1373	1495	1189
Meetings/interactions with non/Town personnel	968	1041	1079
Public fire education programs	38	33	34
Number of pre-school children educated	791	793	811
Day care centers inspected and certified	7	7	7
Fuel oil trucks inspected and certified	6	6	6
Fireworks shows inspected and overseen	1	1	2
Guest houses inspected for operational permits	3	3	3
Amusement rides and fairs inspected	2	2	2
Residential fires investigated	6	5	7
Commercial fires investigated	4	2	3
False alarm bills	325	310	256
Fire code inspections	391	397	407

Government Access TV79

Public Education Programs:

- Through the Fire Marshal's Office, 802 nursery school children were taught not to be afraid of a firefighter in full turnout gear; how to "stop, drop, and roll" if their clothing catches fire; how to escape a fire by crawling under smoke; and the proper reasons for calling 9-1-1.
- A fire prevention program was presented to the Mom's Morning-In program for the DCA.
- Forty-four special needs children in the Hindley School ELS program were taught what a firefighter looks like in full firefighting gear and how to crawl low under smoke in the event they are ever trapped in a fire.
- A program on fire safety and preparedness was held for the Cub Scouts.
- Hindley School kindergartners enjoyed a program on fire safety, when to call 9-1-1, and how to prepare for other emergencies.
- Programs on preparedness and fire safety were held at the Senior Center and for residents of Sterling Glen. In addition, Post Office employees attended a presentation on building fire safety and what to do if there is a fire in a mail carrier vehicle.



Founded in November 2006, TV79 is Darien's own government television station, providing live and taped coverage of public meetings, public affairs and community events. Available to subscribers to Cablevision cable TV, the station is staffed by volunteer and paid camera operators and producers headed by General Manager David Dever and Program Director Jim Cameron, TV 79's co-founders.



Operating under guidelines approved by the Board of Selectmen, TV79 offers C-Span style "gavel to gavel" coverage of meetings without commentary. Broadcasting 24/7 from facilities in Town Hall, TV79 carried more than 400 hours of original programming in 2007. Carried on a regular basis were meetings of the Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, Planning & Zoning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, Environmental Protection Commission, Representative Town Meeting, Board of Education, Monuments & Ceremonies Commission, Tree Warden and Charter Revision Commission.

In addition, TV79 provided tape-delayed coverage of such town events as the Memorial Day Parade and services, The Post 53 Food Fair, "Darien Stroll" holiday



celebrations, and the summertime "Sidewalk Sales" and July 4th "Push – Pull Parade." In anticipation of the opening of the new Darien Library, TV79 was granted a behind-the-scenes walking tour of the construction site, documenting upcoming improvements.

TV79 offers viewers a free weekly e-mail program guide of upcoming shows; currently, there are more than 600 subscribers. Station operation is overseen by the Darien Government Town TV Advisory Committee, members of which are appointed by the Board of Selectmen. TV79 is always seeking volunteers. For more information, contact: channel79@darienct.gov

Harbor Master

The 2007-2008 boating season presented a number of challenges, most of which were quickly addressed. Alignment of the mooring fields, with the goal of providing additional space, continued.

Of the challenges requiring attention during the year, only one was unresolved. Damages were done to a mooring and mooring tackle in Zeigler's Cove early in the season. Witnesses were able to provide the name on the boat, but not the registration number. Although the local community's harbor master and marine police units were

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Health Department

Moorings and Locations

Darien Harbor	206
Zeigler's Cove	32
Noroton Bay Harbor	32
Scotts Cove/Tokeneke	10
Brushy Isle	4
Lateral Owners	11
Total	295

The waiting list for the Darien Harbor and other harbors totals 32; the majority of those on the list are seeking a mooring in Zeigler's Cove.

notified, the Harbor Master's Office remains on the lookout for this craft.

The State of Connecticut provided Connecticut Boat Owners Guide manuals, which were distributed to all new mooring users and other interested parties. Nine docks were authorized by the State during the fiscal year, four of which were replacements of existing docks. Extensively long docks, affecting the northeast side of the Long Neck Point area, remained as a concern, with the erection of one new dock being approved by the State.

Good weather and the absence of severe storms and hurricanes benefited the Darien area throughout the boating season. The continuing cooperation by Darien Boat Club and Noroton Yacht Club personnel has, as in the past, provided safe and easy operation of the recreational and commercial boats within the Darien Harbor, as well as in Darien's waters in general.

Fiscal 2007-2008 found the Town of Darien engaged in reviewing and studying the options available to provide environmental health services to the community. At the beginning of the fiscal year, services were being provided by a part-time Director of Health while the remaining responsibilities for Health Department Services were provided by a private consulting firm. Through the Advisory Board of Health, the Town considered restructuring the Health Department. Ultimately, the decision was made that Darien's best interests would be served by creating a full time health department to be staffed by Town of Darien employees. At this point, the contract with the consultant elapsed and an interim staff was contracted to maintain the necessary level of services. Interviews to fill the position of the first ever full-time Director of Health were well underway by the end of the fiscal year.

The Health Department is charged with enforcing the Connecticut Public Health Code and pertinent ordinances adopted by the Town of Darien. Responsibilities and activities performed by the Department include:

- Inspecting and licensing all food service establishments (107 facilities)
- Inspecting and permitting all public pools (15 pools)
- Inspecting and permitting hair and nail salons (21 facilities)
- Issuing clamming permits (80)
- Plan reviews for any new food service, as well as hair and nail salons
- Plan reviews, permitting, soil testing and inspections of all septic system installations, for both new installations and repairs



- Review of plans for home expansions where septic systems are in use
- Review and approval of well drilling permits and water sample results
- Water sampling at Town of Darien beaches
- Monitoring water quality in streams and bathing areas and maintaining the bathing beach "hotline"
- Responding to complaints and questions from the public
- Providing flu clinic services
- Submittal of ticks for Lyme testing
- Submittal of animals for rabies testing
- Tracking communicable disease reports and following up where appropriate.

Information Technology

The Information Technology (IT) Department enjoyed another successful year delivering unsurpassed service to all end users of the community. Because IT is shared with the Board of Education, the entire town benefits from the vast array of skills the department has to offer – from network security to web development to phone system design. The focus of the IT Department during fiscal 2007-2008 was to create a solid infrastructure that would allow a greater number of services to be available to the public, while maintaining efficiency within Town Hall. This continues to be Information Technology's mission.

Department goals were accomplished in 2007-2008, the result of solid hardware upgrades and careful planning of new system implementations. The replacement of 20 computers and three servers was completed, as was the replacement of the 20-year-old phone system, saving the town nearly \$20,000 in support and software costs. These projects provide a solid backbone for the vast array of software systems IT continues to support, including:

- MUNIS – the financial backbone of Town Hall and the Board of Education.
- Class – Parks and Recreation's core system, which is now available to the public on the Internet complete with e-commerce capabilities.
- Firehouse – the core system for the



fire departments that was successfully implemented in 2006.

- Cott systems – the core system for the management of public records by the Town Clerk's Office.
- Univers – the tax system for assessing properties, which received a full upgrade of hardware and software this past year.
- Walsh – the tax system for collecting tax bills.
- Cityview – implemented in 2006, this system maintains the building process for the Building Department and Planning and Zoning.
- ESRI- the new GIS mapping system that Planning and Zoning utilizes; this system is beginning to feed information to other systems, creating a standard in Town Hall.
- Visionair – the core system for the Police Department; it includes record management, dispatch, and mobile data capabilities.
- Parktech – the core system for managing parking permits and tickets
- Various Access databases that service Public Works, the Town Clerk, and the Health Department.

With the help of Cablevision, the use of TV79 continues to grow, with multiple meeting rooms in Town Hall equipped with full video and audio recording capabilities. Using volunteers from the town, all Town Hall meetings are available via cable television. The website for the town – www.darienct.gov – is receiving a new content management system that will provide citizens with more up-to-date, detailed information via the website.

Information technology plans to build on its success, delivering information and services to the community via the digital highway.



Darien Library

The Darien Library's extensive collection of books, magazines, videos, audio books, DVDs and technology – combined with extraordinary customer service – once again resulted in heavy use by the Darien community and continued recognition.

At year end, the Library maintained a collection of 147,969 books, 6,634 books on CD and downloadable as an MP3, 13,105 videos and DVDs, 5,519 CDs, and 353 magazine and newspaper subscriptions. Forty-five personal computers (PCs) and 10 circulating laptops were available for patron use.

During fiscal 2007-2008, 61,285 reference questions were answered (in person and via phone, fax, mail, email, and Instant Message); in addition, there were 2,403,671 web user sessions. Attendance at Library programs, meetings and classes totaled 25,936.

Library circulation was 796,111 in 2007-2008, and Library visits totaled 409,565. Darien Library has led the state in both circulation and visits per capita during each of the past five years.

Use of technology services at the Library grew at an even faster rate than in past years. Visits to the Library's website – where patrons can access research information, reserve books 24 hours a day, and view the websites of the 59 community organizations that the Library hosts – increased by 28.4% to 1,815,326. Within the Library, more than 4,000 patrons used the public computers each month, undertaking more than 250,000 research, internet access, and desktop software sessions.

Darien Library has consistently been ranked one of the nation's top ten libraries for its size since national ratings began in 1999. The Hennen American Public Library Rating Index ranked Darien Library eighth in the nation and first in Connecticut in a report covering 2006-2007, making it one of the top 100 libraries in the United States. Darien Library has placed in the top ten in its population group for eight consecutive years. Also, according to USA Today, AL Direct (American Libraries Direct) ranked Darien Library 12th in the nation in per capita circulation.

Darien Library also has received awards for the exceptional customer service provided by its staff (including the Connecticut State Library Award for Excellence in Public Service), and for the quality of the service its website provides to the community.

The Darien Library staff is the critical element in the successful partnership between the Library and community. Staff members maintain close personal rapport with the approximately 85% of community residents who have library cards; at the same time, statistics demonstrate that the staff is the most productive in the state.

The relationship between the Town of Darien and the Library is founded on its unique private-public partnership. The Town of Darien funds the Library's operating expenses – including salaries – while the board of trustees of the Library oversees an annual fund drive to buy books, movies, music, computers, magazines, books on CD, information resources and programs. This annual campaign, The Friends of the Library Annual Appeal, raises all the money





spent on the contents of the Library – an arrangement that allows the Library to anticipate and respond quickly to the needs of its many users.

In 2007-2008, trustees and staff continued to oversee the construction of a new Library building, based on the findings of a long range plan – completed in 2001 – which envisions a future library for Darien that will incorporate the best of new information technologies while preserving and supporting the community's interest in books and reading. The new Darien Library, which is located at 1441 Post Road (at the corner of Hecker Avenue), features a 54,000 square-foot state-of-the-art building designed to be resource-friendly and cost-efficient. Darien Library has invested in a geothermal system for heating and cooling, a bioswale coupled with an underground storage system to capture storm-water runoff, sensors to detect whether spaces are occupied, and an RFID-enabled materials management system. Sustainable construction practices are used throughout and the Library is on track for LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold certification. (Darien Library will be the first library in New England to meet the stringent Gold qualifications.) Groundbreaking for the new Library took place on March 11, 2007 in anticipation of a January 2009 opening. Throughout 2007-2008, work continued on construction in coordination with the architects, Peter Gisolfi Associates, in order to realize the expressed needs of community members, including:

- The desire for expanded library services including additional hours, space, and segmentation to meet the needs of specific

population groups, including teens and home-based workers.

- A well-designed and spacious library with clearly defined environments that facilitate a wide range of diverse activities, including quiet reading and research, group study, technology usage and training, community programs, and activities for children and teens.
- Space that emphasizes the Library's role as a community center.

During 2007-2008, while planning for a new library building, Library staff and trustees continued to offer and expand current services.

Adult Programs

Adult programs included "Meet the Author" events (with Michael Korda, John Feinstein, Ed Gray, Michael Gates Gill, Lee Siegel, Eric Weiner, Bob Spitz and Robert H. Patton); several film series; a book discussion series (spring and fall); an adult summer reading program; an annual poetry program; a short story discussion series; and Community Outreach for Domestic Violence Awareness Month (in October, the Library hosted the Proclamation, the Silent Witness exhibit, a special film screening, a DVD/video drive, and knit-a-thon to benefit the shelters run by the Domestic Violence Crisis Center).



Children's Programs

- Attendance at all children's programs totaled 19,074.
- Big Truck and Car Day again brought together vehicles and employees from local government departments and local businesses, 341 children and family members attended.
- The seventh Harry Potter book was celebrated with two events: Harry Potter 101 was attended by 112 children, and the "Midnight Launch" of the book attracted 398 Harry Potter fans of all ages.
- Meet the Author: Mike Lupica drew an audience of 140.
- 721 children participated in the Summer Reading Program.
- Answering the demand for more toddler programs, the Creative Corner program was created, integrating stories with activities that support development of this age group.

Teen Services

- The Darien Library conducted its second Teen Summer Reading Program, attracting 136 readers.
- Staff visited Middlesex Middle School and "book-talked" new titles to 1,060 students.
- Knit-a-thon charity project for the "Snuggles" project – knitting blankets for shelter animals.
- Dance Dance Revolution – a new gaming and social event – was attended by teens on a regular basis.

A major goal of the Darien Library is to offer patrons an opportunity to use the newest technologies while providing training for those who want assistance. More than 130 technology education classes
(continued)



were held for adults (with an emphasis on more advanced topics), children and teens, with a total attendance of more than 1,000. In addition, 57 one-on-one training and assistance sessions were conducted. Senior citizens, in particular, appreciate the individual approach and many are becoming active users of new technologies, such as e-mail and word processing.

Library hours year round are Monday through Thursday: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday: 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The Library's website address is: www.darienlibrary.org.

Monuments and Ceremonies

By charter, the Monuments and Ceremonies Commission is authorized "to establish guidelines for the erection or installation of monuments, plaques, or memorials on public property." The Commission is charged with cataloguing and surveying public monuments, as well as identifying maintenance and upkeep needs. It also promotes, organizes, prepares and monitors public patriotic parades, public celebrations, anniversaries and special community events when requested by the Board of Selectmen. In general, the Commission encourages actions by individuals and organizations that will enhance Darien's image.

During the past fiscal year, the Monuments and Ceremonies Commission successfully organized the Memorial Day Parade, the post-parade ceremony at the Spring Grove Veteran's Cemetery, and the ceremony at Pear Tree Point Beach. This

huge undertaking involves coordination of activities with many other boards, organizations and individuals. The Commission sends invitations to various civic organizations, hires a band, decides on a speaker, honors a veteran as the Parade Grand Marshal, decorates the stand used in the cemetery proceedings, determines the line of march, and facilitates the orderly step-off of the parade participants. In addition, permits are obtained from the property owners of the staging area at Goodwives Shopping Center and Miller Motor Company, where the reviewing stand is held. Members of the Commission also work with the first selectwoman and the Air National Guard to obtain the flyover and with the Darien Police Department to ensure the safety of residents and parade participants. In conjunction with the Memorial Day Parade, the Monuments and Ceremonies Commission co-sponsors a patriotic coloring contest (for children 3-10 years old) with the *Darien Times*. A savings bond is awarded to each of the four children who win. Prior to every Memorial Day, a member of the Commission, Chick Scribner, spearheads the placement of flags on the graves of veterans in Spring Grove Cemetery by the Darien Boy Scouts.

This year's Flag Day ceremony was held at the Darien VFW Post on Saturday, June 14. In commemoration of the tragedy of 9/11, the Monuments and Ceremonies Commission held a ceremony and placed a wreath and roses at the 9/11 Memorial behind Middlesex Middle School. Local officials, 9/11 family members and many townspeople attended.

During the year, the Commission assisted with the Wreaths Across America program. Darien's Veteran's Cemetery is one of only

three Connecticut cemeteries participating in the program; members of the Commission helped place the 65 wreaths there this year. The Darien VFW and the Masonic Club of Darien hosted a dinner for the entire entourage.

The Monuments and Ceremonies

Commission sold Darien license plates many years ago, the proceeds from which were used to purchase the display case in the entrance to Darien Town Hall. Photos of the Memorial Day Parade, taken by Commission member George Walsh, were prominently displayed after the 2008 parade. The Commission welcomes and encourages participation from town groups interested in using the display case for an exhibit. A brief application form is required.

Other Monuments and Ceremonies

Commission activities included a vote to appropriate funds to weed, mulch and maintain the Veteran's Memorial Circle in the front of Town Hall. Because the Commission originally raised the money, selected the stones, commissioned the plaques and landscaping, and organized the dedication of the Circle, members are vitally concerned with its appearance and





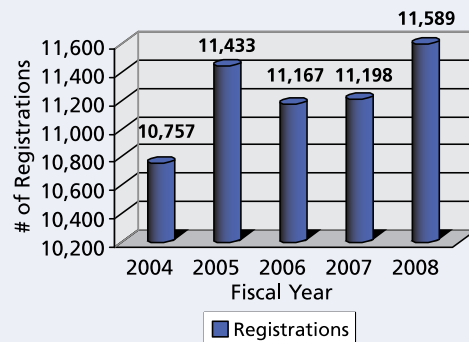
upkeep. The Monuments and Ceremonies Commission is extremely grateful that the Darien Public Works Department has assumed this important responsibility. The Commission also agreed to fund, on a one-time basis, the restoration of the flagpole at the Old Town Hall, due to the very special nature of the flagpole, which rests upon Darien's other war memorial. Normally, the agency that owns the monument is required to fund and oversee repairs, whereas the Commission's responsibility is to advise and make recommendations. Commission money was available for this undertaking because the band hired for the 2008 Memorial Day Parade cancelled. During the year, the Monuments and Ceremonies Commission also purchased the flags for the Hollow Tree overpass on the thruway, and donated the flag for the Kiwanis monument near the Darien Train Station.

Parks and Recreation

The Parks and Recreation Department handles the care, management, maintenance and control of twelve Town of Darien park facilities totaling approximately 209 acres. This includes active as well as passive play areas, play fields and courts, nature preserves, and swimming and boating areas. Parks and Recreation offers recreational activities for pre-school children through adults throughout the year.

During fiscal 2007-2008, the Parks and Recreation Department continued to meet increasing service demands from the community by evaluating and redefining resources and utilizing technology. Public

Program & Permit Registrations



use of the on-line service continues to grow. Program activity registrations and purchase of beach park permits are available to the public 24/7.

Increased participation in all programs and demands for new and expanded facilities have driven the direction of the Parks and Recreation Commission with regard to operations and capital development planning.

Parks and Recreation continues to seek alternative ways to provide and improve facilities. Public/private cooperative projects initiated or completed during fiscal 2007-2008 included:

- Coastal Group – additional Adirondack chairs at Pear Tree Beach.
- Eagle Scout projects – bat boxes at Selleck's Woods; sail boat racks at Weed Beach.
- Park Pals – final donation for play area at Cherry Lawn Park.

Park facility requests continue to be a source of high demand with increased need for administration and maintenance. Events hosted within Darien's parks include: concerts in the park and an antique car show, both co-sponsored by Parks and Recreation and Darien Revitalization, Inc.; the Pumpkin

Walk, sponsored by the Friends of Tilley Park; Garden & Antique Show, sponsored by the Darien Historical Society; ITP Triathlon; Celebration of the Woods, sponsored by the Friends of Selleck's Woods; and more. Darien High School continued to utilize park facilities, such as tennis courts, during the spring season.

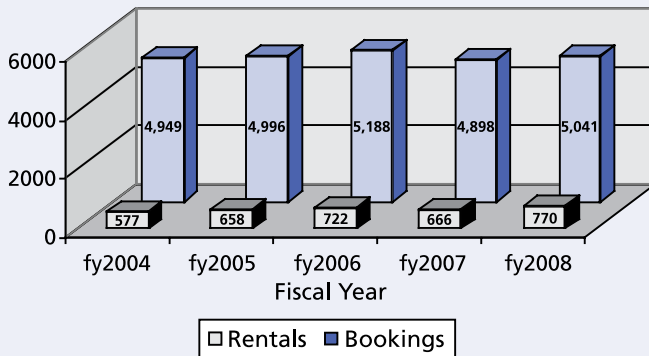
Participation in instructional and lesson programs on the tennis and paddle tennis courts has increased significantly. Almost all athletic leagues run year round rather than for a single season, thus increasing the burden on existing facilities as well as competition for use of those facilities.

Demand remains high for youth and adult recreation programs. Numbers of participants continued to increase. Programs included swimming lessons, tennis lessons and camps for youth and adults, instructional basketball, indoor soccer, golf lessons, piano and guitar lessons, soccer and baseball camps, floor hockey, children's science programs, paddle tennis lessons, school vacation activities, and cheerleading camps. All programs were quite popular, and many had waiting lists. Parks and Recreation and the Youth Commission once again sponsored two movies on the beach, one in June and one in September. Adults participated in drop-in volleyball and basketball, tennis lessons, golf lessons, community gardens, and concerts. The Department continued to co-sponsor such activities as the Darien Junior Sailing Program, as well as events in cooperation with the Youth Commission.

Fees for both boat and beach access were unchanged from fiscal 2006-2007 levels.

(continued)

Facility Rentals



Parks and Recreation continues to work closely with the Darien Boat Club to monitor Pear Tree Beach boating areas.

Moving forward on the Weed Beach Master Plan of Development, the Parks and Recreation Commission formed a Weed Beach Building Committee. The Committee, which began meeting in January, received funding from the RTM and a Planning and Zoning Mandatory Referral in May, and entered into the schematic design phase of the project. A team of architects, landscape architects and engineers was brought in to work on the schematics and project permits from land use boards. Plans for the lighting of the boat ramp area at Pear Tree and planting along Pear Tree Point Road were further developed and work begun.

The Parks and Recreation website – www.darienct.gov/parkrec – continues to be a source of public information regarding services, as well as a means to publicize program activities and information. Registration for programs and the purchase of beach permits can be performed on-line; summer job applications and program registration forms also can be downloaded and filed via mail.

The mission of the Darien Park and Recreation Commission is to nurture active

and passive recreational activities within existing Town of Darien parklands, to maintain clean and attractive facilities, and to adjust and expand both the recreational programs and parklands to meet the recreational requirements of all residents in a cost effective manner.

Planning and Zoning

The Darien Planning and Zoning Department provides staff support for four all-volunteer local land use boards: the Planning and Zoning Commission, the Zoning Board of Appeals, the Environmental Protection Commission, and the Architectural Review Board. These four boards, with assistance from a professional staff of seven, continue to hear and review development and redevelopment applications.

The **Planning and Zoning Commission**, which consists of six elected volunteers, met 34 times in fiscal 2007-2008, during which time it processed 67 applications. At those meetings, various zoning amendments were adopted, including reductions in the parking requirements for retail and restaurant uses, and modified the zoning regulations to allow banks and financial service uses as a special permit use within the CBD zone

rather than as-of-right. A proposal for inclusionary zoning regulations will continue to be processed into fiscal 2008-2009. In February 2008, the Commission amended the zoning map to reflect aquifer protection areas. In their role as aquifer protection agency, the Commission met on December 4 for a public hearing on proposed aquifer protection regulations, which were adopted at a subsequent meeting. A staff member from Planning and Zoning attended DEP-sponsored training regarding the implementation of the aquifer protection program.

Among the 67 applications acted on during the fiscal year was a proposal for a new Whole Foods Market to replace the existing Howard Johnson's motel and restaurant at the intersection of Boston Post Road and Ledge Road. Significant staff time was spent during the processing of this application, and during the litigation that followed, when the neighbors appealed the Commission's conditional approval. That litigation was subsequently resolved, and construction of the new Whole Foods is expected to begin before the end of 2008.

Other applications of note include: the approval of The Cottage in Darien, Inc. on Edgerton Street; approval of an ice cream shop and two restaurants in the newly constructed building at 1020 Boston Post Road; and a new building to replace the International House of Pancakes at 71 Boston Post Road. In April, the Commission approved six light poles at Tilley Pond Park, as well as various improvements at Weed Beach. The Commission also approved two applications for property owners on Cherry Street to elevate their residences to minimize the potential impacts of flooding.



The Commission hired Tighe & Bond to prepare a stormwater management report and draft regulations. The Commission met jointly with the EPC and the Board of Selectmen at their May 13 meeting regarding a draft of the stormwater report. The final report was issued in October 2008.

In November 2007, two new Commission members, Reese Hutchison and Gwynne Grimes, were elected to replace Ursula Forman and David Kenny. Robert Finke also was elected to the Commission at that time.

The **Darien Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)** has five appointed regular members and three alternates. During fiscal 2007-2008, the ZBA met 26 times and processed a total of 87 applications. Of these applications, 54 were granted, 10 were granted in part/denied in part, 17 were denied, four were withdrawn, and there were two other decisions. In October 2007, John Ashburne was appointed by the selectmen to replace Dick Sanford. Vic Capellupo was reelected chairman of the ZBA and Gary Greene was reelected vice-chairman.

In February, the ZBA approved new buildings at Weed Beach; in June, plans for additions and alterations at the Darien Police Station were reviewed and approved.

(continued)



Planning & Zoning Activities Fiscal 2007-2008

Business Site Plan/Site Plans – Approved: 13, Amendments Approved: 9

Coastal Site Plan – Granted: 14, Denied: 1, Withdrawn: 3, Amendments Granted: 7

Flood Damage Prevention – Granted: 17, Withdrawn: 2, Denied: 1, Amendments Granted: 5

Land Filling/Excavation – Approved: 22, Withdrawn: 2, Amendments Approved: 1

Special Permit – Granted: 11, Withdrawn: 3, Amendments Granted: 3

Amendments to Zoning Regulations – Granted: 3, Withdrawn: 1, Granted in Part/Denied in Part: 1

Amendments to the Zoning Map – Granted: 2

Amendment to the Town Plan of Conservation & Development – Granted: 1, Denied: 1

Subdivisions – Approved: 2, Denied: 1, Amendments Approved: 1

Referral Reports Issued: 5

TOTAL: 67; sixteen amendments approved; five referral reports issued.



The **Environmental Protection Commission (EPC)**, which is comprised of seven volunteer members appointed by the Board of Selectmen, serves as the Darien's inland wetlands agency. The EPC met 24 times in fiscal 2007-2008, during which time 72 applications were processed. Of those applications, 69 were granted; three were withdrawn, and two amendments were approved. The EPC adopted flood and erosion control regulations in the final quarter of the fiscal year.

During the fiscal year, pond dredging was approved by the EPC in eight different locations: 297 Brookside Road, 12 Shennamere Road, 20 Driftway Lane, 11 Highfield Lane, 207 Leroy Avenue, 101 Inwood Road, Valley Forge Road, and 22 Leroy Avenue.

In February 2008, a new town inland wetland and watercourses map was adopted; the map is now on the Darien website and available for review and purchase in the Planning and Zoning Department. A joint meeting with the Planning and Zoning Commission was held in May to discuss the draft stormwater management report and draft regulations. The EPC approved a sanitary sewer installation on Goodwives River Road, Salem Straits, Conant Road, Candlewood Road, Hawthorne Lane, Whaling Road, and Beverly Place.

In this past fiscal year, three new members were welcomed to the EPC: Alan Armstrong, Rick Rohr, and Michael Tone

The **Architectural Review Board (ARB)** is comprised of seven members and three alternates, all appointed by the Board

of Selectmen. The ARB reviews and comments on facades of multi-family and non-residential structures and on proposals for non-residential signs and awnings.

In 2007-2008, the ARB met 12 times and processed 40 applications. Of those applications, 38 were approved and two were granted in part and denied in part. Among the various signs approved during the year were awnings and wall and/or hanging signs for new businesses such as gas stations, restaurants, and new retail uses.

Specifically, the ARB approved: the architectural design of two new replacement buildings downtown (at 13 Grove Street and at 1015 Boston Post Road); the expansion and renovation of the police headquarters building; the design of a new building to replace IHOP; the construction of three new buildings (a bathhouse, guardhouse, and paddle tennis warming hut); and the design of a new bank to be constructed at the corner of Heights Road and Noroton Avenue.

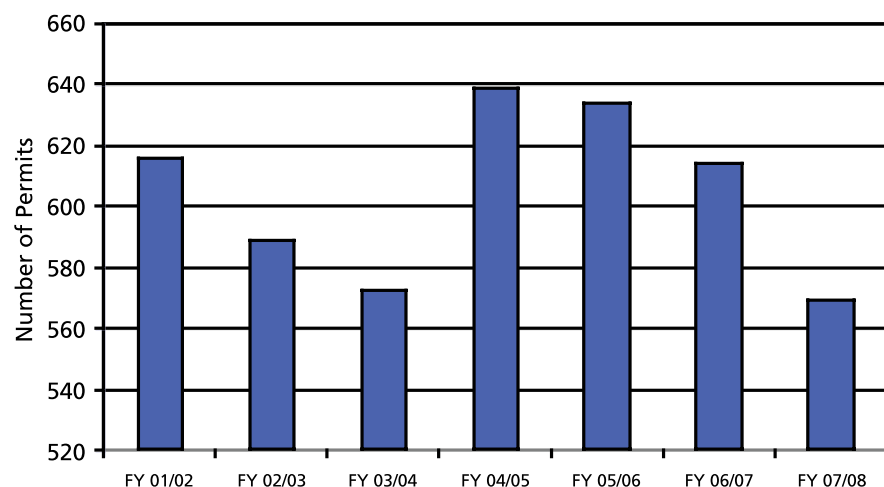
In early 2008, the ARB reviewed proposed parking signage for downtown presented by the Darien Revitalization Inc (DRI) Design Committee. Installation of the signs is expected in late 2008.

Zoning Permits

A total of 571 zoning permits were approved during the fiscal year, 45 fewer than during fiscal 2006-2007. Of the 571 zoning permits approved in 2007-2008, 19 were issued for swimming pools and/or spas; 15 were for signs and/or awnings; 49 were for the completion of a portion of an attic and/or a basement; and 46 were issued for new single family residences. Of the 46 permits for new house construction, only four of these new residences were built on vacant lots; the others were "teardowns" — the replacement of an existing house with a new one.

The Planning and Zoning Department continues to put significant time and effort into zoning enforcement. The zoning enforcement officer and code compliance

Zoning Permits - Fiscal Years 2001 - 2008





Police Department

officer continue to work on violations and complaints. A variety of issues are pursued, including wetlands violations, signage issues, illegal commercial activity within a residential zone, and unregistered vehicles and boat storage.

The Town of Darien website – www.darienct.gov – continues to be an essential resource for the general public. The site provides information regarding the building and zoning permit process; specific agendas and meeting notices and minutes for various land use boards; and accurate, up-to-date listings of Board members. The Town of Darien zoning map and inland wetlands map are also on the website.

The Planning and Zoning Department continues to play a lead role in implementing two multi-department software systems. The first, the CityView software, allows the Planning and Zoning office to track and report on zoning permits, applications of the local land use boards, financial receipt data, and other essential information. The ArcGIS Geographic Information System (GIS) software, which also is used by many departments, ties basic town geographic information with data provided by various users. These two software packages allow multi-department access, providing a valuable resource to employees in Town Hall, including reporting, the production of maps, and other analysis capabilities.

The Darien Police Department falls under the oversight and control of a three-member civilian Police Commission and has an authorized strength of 51 sworn officers, seven fulltime civilian employees, one part-time civilian employee, eight school crossing guards, and 20 traffic agents.

The Police Department maintains a fleet of 18 motor vehicles, two motorcycles, a 26-foot patrol boat, and an emergency response vehicle that carries all SCUBA and Emergency Response Team (ERT) equipment, while also serving as a mobile command post. The Department maintains a well equipped SCUBA team and an ERT, which has partnered with other area town police departments to form the Southwest Regional Emergency Response Team.

During fiscal 2007-2008, the Department logged 21,076 incidents, including 23 burglaries, two attempted burglaries, 73 motor vehicle burglaries, 115 larcenies, one assault unrelated to domestic violence, 11 stolen vehicles, six robberies, two sexual assaults, and 99 incidents of vandalism. Officers responded to 935 medical calls, arriving at these calls in an average of 3.6 minutes, well under the first responder target of six minutes. There were 1,998 burglar alarm activations, 1,995 of which were false or malfunctions related to the weather or equipment problems.

There were 375 custodial criminal arrests during the fiscal year. The Department investigated a total of 86 domestic and domestic violence incidents, with 31 of those incidents resulting in arrests. Twenty-five infractions were issued for violations not involving a motor vehicle.

Traffic enforcement and traffic related issues continue to occupy much of the Department's time. Causal factors relating to accidents receive a high enforcement priority. There were 606 motor vehicle accidents on local roads during fiscal 2007-2008, resulting in one fatality. Traffic enforcement activity included 96 misdemeanor summonses, 3,463 infractions, 910 written warnings, and 3,098 verbal warnings. One hundred and one drivers were arrested for driving while intoxicated (DWI).

The Police Department's two domestic violence liaison officers continue to work closely with victims of domestic violence and attend regular court meetings to ensure that every Darien domestic violence incident is appropriately monitored and that victims receive the services they need.

During fiscal 2007-2008, the Marine Division handled 142 calls for service, issuing 17 infractions and 18 written warnings for assorted vessel violations.

The annual Open House, held in May, was well-attended and offered the Darien community an overview of the Department's facility and operations, as well as a youth bicycle rodeo and a children's identification station.

The Department has been aggressively pursuing State of Connecticut Police accreditation in the hopes of joining the relatively few police agencies in Connecticut with such accreditation. The Department had set a goal of completing Tier I of the three-tier process by December 31, 2008. It appears that it will be well positioned to complete both Tier I and Tier II by that date.

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Public Works

The Traffic Division remains fully engaged in the process of making Darien roads safer, obtaining grant funding and using both education and enforcement campaigns to keep the accident rate down. Previous efforts resulted in a significant reduction in the number of accidents in the downtown area. Four officers are presently enrolled in the Legal Traffic Authority Certification program offered by the University of Connecticut. Numerous construction projects adversely impacting local traffic are also closely monitored by the Traffic Division.

The Police Station Building Committee continues to work closely with the architects, Jacunski Humes, and the town's construction manager, Turner Construction, to keep the estimated \$17.98 million dollar project on track for groundbreaking in late 2008. This project, more than two years in the planning stage, will result in the expansion and renovation of Darien Police Headquarters to "as new" condition, with significant increases in storage, workspace, and training areas, as well as an expanded and

modernized communications center. The outdoor pistol range will be moved indoors in the new facility, a high priority given the ongoing construction of the new Darien Library next door.

The Field Based Reporting (FBR) component of the Department's technology program is now operational, allowing officers to remain in the field and complete most reports in the patrol vehicle using the Mobile Data Terminal (MDT). NetMotion software also has been installed, allowing officers in the field full access to all state and national criminal databases.



Darien's Department of Public Works (DPW) is responsible for constructing and maintaining most of the town's infrastructure of buildings, streets, bridges, storm and sanitary sewers, the refuse disposal area, recycling programs, two railroad stations and municipal parking lots. Thirty full-time employees work to keep municipal facilities and services functioning at a high level. The DPW is organized into six major areas of responsibility: Public Works Management & Engineering, Highway Maintenance, Solid Waste Disposal and Recycling, Public Building Management, Parking Facilities and Railroad & Maintenance, and Sewer Collection System Maintenance.

Public Works Management & Engineering manages all DPW functions, prepares contracts, hires consultants and contractors, reports to the first selectwoman on a regular basis, prepares engineering documents, performs engineering reviews and carries out special projects as required. Non-routine projects undertaken during fiscal 2007-2008 included:

- Design of a sanitary sewer extension to serve Goodwives River Road (et al).
- Engineering report for repair of Five Mile River Road Pump Station Force Main.
- Continued negotiations with the City of Stamford relative to the wastewater treatment plant upgrade and treatment fees.
- Constructed tide gate replacement at Gorham's Pond Dam.
- Processed 1,330 work requests.
- Took storm samples for Phase II stormwater permit with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Continued training on software to assist in maintaining the drainage system and reporting requirements; continued to update the plan.





- Reassessed and adjusted 100% salt application protocol for snow and ice removal.
- Continued design and approval process with the Connecticut Department of Transportation and DEP relative to alleviating flooding on Heights Road during intense rainfall events, including wetland creation and stormwater retention in Baker Park.
- Designed and bid in house the Center Street Parking Lot and Lighting Upgrade.
- Awarded town-wide aerial mapping and drainage study.
- Prepared for construction of new scalehouse at dump.
- Re-bid and value engineered the replacement of Noroton Heights Railroad concrete stairs (at Hollow Tree Ridge Road overpass).

Highway Maintenance is responsible for maintaining 81 miles of streets and 30 bridges in Darien. Programs include:

- **Christmas Tree Pickup:** Darien is divided into five sections for Christmas tree pickup. When trees in all five sections have been collected once, the collection begins again giving residents a second chance to dispose of their trees. The entire program is completed in January. Residents with a valid RDA sticker also may bring Christmas trees to the RDA.
- **Street Sweeping:** Darien is divided into eight sections for street sweeping. The order of street sweeping is rotated annually. Due to continued use of straight salt, sand accumulations were again virtually non-existent. Street sweeping continues throughout the year. The whole town is swept at least once by the end of April. The downtown area is swept multiple times through the end of summer.
- **Spring Cleanup:** The Spring Pickup program provides residents with the opportunity to dispose of large items once per year. During fiscal 2007-2008, 142 tons were collected compared to only 37 tons the previous year. This year's collection more closely approximated the 17-year average of 154 tons.
- **Household Hazardous Waste Day:** Darien's annual household hazardous waste day is conducted on the first Saturday in June. This event enables Darien residents (and other surrounding town residents) to safely and responsibly dispose of household chemicals through a licensed contractor hired to haul and dispose of household hazards collected at the event. Currently, the South Western Connecticut Regional Recycling Operating Committee (SWEROC) administers the program. Next fiscal year, Darien will likely agree to reciprocal arrangements with surrounding towns and administer the program in house. The Darien Environmental Group provides assistance to the DPW by generating and mailing flyers to advertise the event. A total of 326 vehicles (contributing an equivalent of 338 households of waste) took advantage of the program in 2008.
- **Paving Program:** Each summer, the DPW resurfaces about three miles of town roads. During 2007-2008 resurfacing was completed on Wilson Ridge Road East, Wilson Ridge Road, Linden Avenue, Dubois Street, Relihan Road, Phillips Lane, Nutmeg Lane, Deepwoods Road, Mystic Lane, Kona Lane and Old Parish Road (approximately 3.3 miles).
- **Leaf Pickup:** From late October through early December, DPW crews travel the

streets collecting leaves in biodegradable bags. The town is divided into two sections and each section has leaves collected three times. Leaves collected by the town are transported to a registered leaf composting facility. For every seven tons of leaves delivered, approximately one ton of compost is produced. The town sells compost to commercial entities. Residents who collect their own small quantities are allowed compost for free at the dump.

- **Street Sign Upgrade:** Spurred on by changes in national standards for street signs and complaints about night visibility, the DPW began a multi-year replacement program featuring larger, clearer and more reflective signs. In addition, the number of cross street signs is being doubled. This program is ongoing and will continue for the next few years.
- **Gorham's Pond Tide Gates:** The goal of the Friends of Gorham's Pond is to prevent or prolong Gorham's Pond from either becoming a marsh, or requiring dredging. Residents around the pond have noted depressed water levels during low tide. Although the town repaired the tide gates, the dam continued to leak, a situation that led to hiring divers to determine the cause of the leak. The town then hired a consultant to prepare plans to repair the dam structure and new tide gates. The project was advertised for bid during the summer of 2006. Unfortunately, only one bid was submitted and it exceeded budget by 40 percent. During 2006-2007 additional funds were allocated and the project re-bid and awarded. During fiscal 2007-2008, the tide gates were replaced. The project

(continued)



also included scour protection of the Rings End Road Bridge abutments, repointing of loose stone joints of bridge, and a fish ladder primarily to allow alewives to enter Gorham's pond (and, hopefully, the Stony Brook). The project involved sheet piling, a massive pumping and dewatering operation, complex cast-in-place reinforced concrete, and contending with the extreme cold temperatures through the entire winter. The project is essentially complete, though some remedial work remains. Extra stones placed along the face of the dam have sloughed away and will be removed restoring the original face of the dam.

- **Tree Removal and Maintenance:** Tree work is, by far, the most common service requested of the Department of Public Works (32% of all requests in 2007-2008). Once a tree is reported and found to be on Town of Darien property, the tree warden, a licensed arborist who works as a contractor for the DPW, determines whether the tree should be removed, pruned or left as is. Tree requests and tree safety concerns continue to fully utilize appropriated funds. Unfortunately, utility company tree work has been reduced due to budget restraints, further burdening Darien's tree budget. As a result, Darien incurs additional expense to remove dangerous trees high above power wires – a situation that has caused other trees of concern to be given a lower priority. This year, the newly formed Tree Commission took an active role in the process, collecting tree requests on a weekly basis from the DPW office.
- **Tree Replacement Program:** Residents who lose a town tree in front of their

property can request a replacement tree. The tree warden and the DPW evaluate the request based on the location of the tree removed, interruption of the tree canopy in the area, available space for the replacement tree and other factors. The budget for this program, although modest, is rarely fully utilized. Approximately six trees are replaced under this program each year.

- **Drainage System Maintenance:** Darien has an extensive storm water drainage system connected to private drainage systems, Connecticut DOT drainage systems, and watercourses. The DPW utilizes a combination vacuum-water jet truck to suck sand, organic matter and other debris from catch basins and for flushing out storm drain pipes. Due to an unusual number of high intensity storms and resulting localized flooding, the town is proceeding with a town-wide drainage study, the first phase of which includes mapping of the town's topography and waterways (a process that will include aerial photography). Milone and MacBroom of Cheshire was selected to perform the town-wide drainage study. James Sewall of Maine was selected to perform all mapping, survey and photography work. The drainage study is scheduled to be completed by the end of fiscal 2010. The Stony Brook watershed will be the first area to be studied as it presents the most challenges and has a history of problems.

Solid Waste Disposal and Recycling:

Refuse disposal and recycling account for about 40 percent of the entire Public Works budget. The DPW issues nearly 7,000 residential permits each year. Monthly

invoices are sent to ten refuse companies and 150 commercial permittees. Annual revenue exceeds \$1,000,000.00. Residents and commercial garbage collectors deliver recyclables to the recycling center where they are collected in roll-off containers and hauled to the Intermediate Processing Center in Stratford for additional sorting, packaging and sale. Recyclables handled at the RDA include waste motor oil, wood chips, leaves, logs, brush, construction and demolition debris, mixed paper, newspaper and cardboard, glass and plastic food containers, scrap metals, automobile lead acid type batteries, and air conditioners, dehumidifiers and freezers. For fiscal 2008-2009, Darien has entered into an agreement with a different vendor for solid waste and recycling disposal following the expiration of the contract with Connecticut Resource Recovery Authority.

Public Building Management: The DPW is the building manager for Town Hall, the Senior Center and the Town Garage (which serves as the maintenance building for the DPW, Parking Division, Sewer Services, Solid Waste, the Board of Education and Parks and Recreation). At Town Hall three fulltime custodians are responsible for the care of grounds, heat, air conditioning and all mechanical functions related to the clean, safe and comfortable use of buildings. Activities of note undertaken during 2007-2008 include:

- **Town Hall:** A new gymnasium roof (standing seam metal) was installed. Room 119 was completely renovated, including asbestos abatement and new carpet, ceiling, air conditioning, partition and lighting. New air conditioning was installed in the Fire Marshals' office,



while new carpeting was installed in stairwells, the Finance, Selectwoman's and Building Department offices. A new vinyl floor was installed in the gymnasium vestibule.

- **Senior Center:** Maintenance included new windows, oil tank testing and repair, code updates, and assorted repairs.

Parking Facilities & Maintenance:

The DPW maintains and polices approximately 1,681 parking spaces in 13 lots and parking areas in the downtown area and at Darien's two train stations. Each lot is monitored on a daily basis for overtime parking and permit violations. A parking agent covers the downtown areas on foot so that the parking regulations are more effectively enforced.

- The Center Street parking lot lighting upgrade and resurfacing began in fiscal 2007-2008 and will be completed in 2008-2009. The project will provide light to the entire parking lot including the private parking lot behind the new development at 1020 Boston Post Road. The entire lot will also be resurfaced and striped.
- The Noroton Heights Railroad Station Concrete Stairway Replacement project was re-bid and valued engineered during fiscal 2007-2008. Construction is expected to take place in 2008-2009. The concrete staircases from the railroad platforms to the Hollow Tree Ridge Road overpass have deteriorated beyond the point of repair and a full replacement is warranted.
- Darien and Noroton Heights Railroad Station Buildings saw upgrades undertaken to plumbing and electrical systems, as well as to the buildings' interiors.

Sewer Collection System

Maintenance: Emphasis continued on reducing failures at pump stations and sewer system blockages that result in overflows. The sewer superintendent continues to proactively seek and eliminate potential blockages or other problems through ongoing improvements or prophylactic efforts.

- **Five Mile River Road Pump Station Force Main:** Over the last seven years, the force main has ruptured a few times in the general vicinity of the Harriet Lane intersection with Tokeneke Road. During 2007-2008, a study was performed and test holes were excavated. Pipe deterioration on the exterior of ruptured pipe was found to be isolated within a 700 foot length of pipe. Plans are being prepared to replace this section of pipe in the new fiscal year.
- **Stony Brook Force Main Upgrade Project:** This project involves installing an additional force main pipe from the Stony Brook Pump Station on the Post Road to the gravity sewer on the Post Road near Garden City Road. The project was initiated following a study of high wet weather flow to the pump station (the second largest in the town's collection system). It is currently on hold due to other priorities, such as the Five Mile River Road Pump Station replacement. The project is worthwhile and will likely be constructed in the future.
- **Goodwives River Road Sanitary Sewer Extension:** The Goodwives River Road sanitary sewer extension has been in the works for quite a while. Affected residents remain divided over the merits and costs of providing sewers to this area, with a majority of residents in favor of the

project. The Darien Sewer Commission passed a motion to proceed with the project following multiple public hearings and meetings. Sewers are proposed on Goodwives River Road, Salem Straits, Beverly Place, Peabody Lane, Conant Place, Whaling Road, Hawthorne Road, and Candlewood Lane. The sewer extension will be low pressure and necessarily cross the Goodwives River and discharge into the gravity sewer in Old Kings Highway South. The river crossing will be performed with easements and directional drilling beneath the river bed to avoid conventional excavation within a waterway. The Connecticut DEP's Office of Long Island Sound Programs is reviewing the permit required for the river crossing as well as any other coastal areas where their jurisdiction applies. Permit approval from the DEP is expected in 2008-2009, as are easement procurement, bidding and construction.

- **City of Stamford Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade:** The City of Stamford was in the process of upgrading their wastewater facility throughout 2007-2008. All wastewater in Darien (except from septic systems) is collected and directed to the City of Stamford for treatment and discharge. Darien pays a pro rata share of treatment costs and likewise bears some financial responsibility for improvements of the facility.
- **Grease Control and Root Control:** Grease and root control is ongoing with known hotspots receiving special attention. Both chemical and mechanical abatement of grease and roots are utilized. Restaurants are the leading cause of

(continued)



Senior Center

The Darien Senior Center added several new classes during fiscal 2007-2008. The Senior Center now offers eight exercise or movement classes, all of which continue to be successful.

During the past summer, Center programs included a well-attended grandmothers' story time with children from four to eight years old. A grandmothers' story time for preschoolers is being offered currently.

In addition, a new reading group – known as "Alliance Francois" – has come together at the Center. Comprised of 12 to 18 members, the group meets monthly to read novels in French.

The Darien Senior Center continues to pursue new and interesting programs with the monies allotted.



grease in the sewer system. The Connecticut DEP has issued a general permit for control of fats oils and grease control. The Sewer Department looks forward to working with the Health Department to minimize the coagulation of grease in sewer pipes, which can reduce capacity and cause blockages. Grease can also accumulate and break free causing a blockage further downstream.

Registrars of Voters

The Registrars of Voters prepare, conduct and give an accounting of all local elections. All voter enrollment lists are computerized, giving Darien the most accurate and current voter information available. The two Registrars enroll voters, maintain statistics, supervise all elections and primaries, program the voting machines for each election, conduct the annual canvass of voters, and appoint the moderators and all elections officials for Darien's six polling places.

Darien Voter Profile (As of October 1, 2008)

REPUBLICANS	6,099	51.0%
DEMOCRATS	2,326	19.0%
UNAFFILIATED	3,612	30.0%
TOTAL	12,037	





Social Services

During fiscal 2007-2008, the Social Services Department continued carrying out its mission to provide a full range of community social programs to promote the physical, emotional and economic wellbeing of all Darien's residents: families and children, singles and the elderly. Social Services programs include, but are not limited to, the following:

Social Services provides information and referrals in many different human service areas, such as financial assistance, how to get help in the home for the elderly, how to understand the difference between Medicare, Medicare Part D and Medicaid, and how to apply for and find appropriate help for a troubled child or an adult child with mental health issues, or locate transportation for people who are elderly or disabled. These and many more questions are answered in complete confidence in the Social Services office in Town Hall, in a resident's home, over the phone, or by e-mail, whichever is most convenient for the resident. Social Services will also extend its office hours to meet with Darien citizens before or after work.

The Back to School Program is collaboration between Social Services and the Darien Unit of the Salvation Army. The program provides backpacks, school supplies and a gift certificate for a new pair of sneakers to eligible Darien school children. This past year, 40 Darien children were sent back to school with new supplies and sneakers to ensure that they started off their school year in the best possible way.

During the Thanksgiving and Christmas season, Social Services' Holiday Program

provided 33 families with a holiday meal, while 41 children were provided with Christmas gifts and toys. The provision of these meals and gifts was made possible through the generosity of individual donations, the Community Fund of Darien, an annual gift and toy drive event by the Youth Commission, and the Depot and a Darien High School gift drive.

During the 2007 heating season, Darien Social Services provided energy assistance to 103 applicants. This assistance was made available through the state Energy Assistance Program, Operation Fuel, the Darien Fuel Bank, the Darien Unit of the Salvation Army, the Community Fund of Darien and Darien Social Services' emergency funds.

The Gallivan is a wheelchair-accessible van that provides transportation to the elderly and disabled. Rides are available throughout town, as well as to most places in Norwalk and Stamford. The rides are free or \$5.00 for those who wish to donate. During the year, 1,643 one-way rides were provided via Gallivan.

A Senior Resource Directory is available in the Social Services office at Town Hall or by request, through the mail. This directory contains a listing of important resources and other information for Darien's elderly residents.

Darien Social Services has a wealth of information about other agencies and available resources. Social Services encourages all Darien residents to call, e-mail, or visit Town Hall if they have any questions about the department's programs or resources.

Town Clerk

The Town Clerk is responsible for maintaining and preserving land and vital records for the Town of Darien. Land records dating from 1820 to the present are microfilmed and stored in a fireproof vault in the Town Clerk's office. During the year, the number of recordings dropped from a total of 5,696 documents in fiscal 2006-2007, to 5,432 in fiscal 2007-2008.

Darien's electronic land record indexing system currently dates from June 1983 to the present. In a continuing effort to make older information available on the system, Darien was awarded a Historic Preservation Grant in July 2007, with which the Town Clerk's Office is working to complete the final phase of the four-phase process of re-indexing data from January 1969 to June 1983 for installation into the system.

As Registrars of Vital Records, the Clerk's Office issues and maintains birth, marriage and death certificates. As Darien is not a





“hospital town,” very few births occur in town. In fact, none was recorded during fiscal 2007-2008. The Office has the capability, however, to access birth records recorded since 2002 anywhere in Connecticut, using a State-provided EVRS System.

During the fall of 2007, the Town Clerk’s Office prepared for and oversaw, in conjunction with the Registrars of Voters, the municipal election held on November 6, the first election at which electronic voting machines were used. The Clerk’s Office was responsible for the creation of the ballot, along with the issuance and processing of all absentee ballots. Two presidential preference primaries were held on February 5, 2008. In connection with those primaries, a total of 303 absentee ballots were issued, 247 of which were completed, returned, and delivered to the Registrars on Election Day for counting.

Other functions of the Clerk’s Office include the registering of trade names and notaries public and the issuing of a variety of sport licenses including hunting, fishing and trapping licenses. The Town Clerk also issues dog licenses, consistent with a State of Connecticut requirement that all dogs, six months and older, be licensed every June. Renewal reminders are sent out in late May to owners of currently licensed dogs. Working with the Police Department’s animal control officer, more and more dogs are being licensed.

The Town Clerk acts as the clerk of the Representative Town Meeting (RTM), Darien’s legislative body. In that capacity, the Clerk’s Office is responsible for disseminating information to district and committee members as necessary. During fiscal 2007-2008, the RTM dealt with several union contracts and

acted on a number of Code of Ordinance amendments, including amendments regarding the acceptance of gifts, tax abatement for nonprofit land conservation organizations, and snow and ice removal from sidewalks. Funds for the purchase of the Darien Library property at 35 Leroy Avenue, a new Police Department and the Weed Beach renovation project also were addressed.

In addition to maintaining the meeting notices and minutes of the RTM, the Town Clerk’s Office also maintained notices and minutes associated with the activities and meetings of various town boards and commissions.

Town Treasurer

Investment income for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008 represents the second highest investment income in Darien’s history, trailing only last year’s record-setting level. For fiscal 2007-2008 General Fund investment income of \$1,555,634 represents a 73% increase over the budgeted level of \$900,000, a 21% decrease from fiscal 2006-2007 investment income of \$1,960,870. The Total Town Funds investment income of \$1,936,728 for fiscal 2007-2008 represents a 66% increase over the budgeted level of \$1,163,777, a 29% decrease from fiscal 2006-2007 income of \$2,744,699.

It is significant that investment income came in over budgeted levels given the turmoil in financial markets. During the fiscal year, Federal Funds rates dropped more than three full points, a situation that had a significant impact on yields and overall results. Accordingly, the primary goal of the

investment portfolio during the fiscal year was safety with yield being secondary.

Additionally, Darien was one of the first municipalities to pull its investment funds (in November/December 2007) out of the Connecticut State Investment Fund (STIF) due to STIF’s investments in structured investment funds (SIVs), including sub-prime debt. On July 17, 2008, the treasurer of the State of Connecticut announced that the state will convert its remaining position in these SIVs to pass-through notes which will not be sold at auction but will have to be marked to market. It is believed that this measure will reduce STIF’s \$53.4 million reserve by about \$40 million – the first reduction of its reserve in STIF’s history.

Given the STIF situation and continuing turmoil in the financial markets, it is clear that the coming fiscal year will be a challenging one for earning investment income.

Youth Commission

The Darien Youth Commission is composed of seven adults appointed by the Board of Selectmen, a full-time Youth Director, and a Youth Advisory Committee made up of between eight and 16 high-school-aged students (at least two from each grade with no more than four per grade). The Youth Commission serves as an advocate for youth services by developing, planning, coordinating and conducting programs and activities focused on enrichment for the youth of Darien. This is accomplished through the coordinated efforts of more than 500 volunteers. In addition, many of



the Commission's programs rely heavily on collaboration with outside agencies and organizations, such as the Community Fund of Darien, Darien Parks & Recreation, Darien Social Services, the Kiwanis Club, the Depot, the Darien Arts Center, the YMCA and YWCA, and the Board of Education.

Ongoing Commission services include coordination of "What's Up for Kids," a monthly calendar featuring special events and activities being sponsored by local agencies and organizations for Darien youth. "What's Up for Kids" is sent to local newspapers and the Darien Library Community Calendar, and well as posted at www.kidseven.com and on the Youth Commission website. Hard copies are also available at a variety of locations.

Youth Commission programs include single-time and ongoing events. Single-time events, which are usually the result of collaborative efforts, include: the Halloween Window Painting Contest for middle- and high-school-aged youth; the community-wide movie benefiting the Social Services Holiday Gift Drive; "A Day to Create" – the annual Community Arts Festival; the Tilley Pond Model Boat Regatta; the annual Family Concerts at Weed Beach (once weekly during June); and the annual Sand Castle Building Contest. Ongoing events include the TOPS program (Teen Options) for middle-school-aged children, a program that sponsors more than 15 social and recreational events throughout the school year. Ongoing activities during the summer include the town's Summer Camp Program for children entering grades 1-6, and the Middle School Summer Activity Program (MSSAP) for students entering grades 7-9. More than 300 of Darien's youth participate

in these two activities. The Summer Camp, promoted as a "total day camp experience," is a combination of small group and large group activities, athletics, arts and crafts, field trips, entertainers, workshops and more. The MSSAP travels daily to different destinations, using the Depot as its home base/rain location if needed.

Co-sponsoring events at the Depot is a very important way to stay connected to the high- school-aged population while enabling the teen center to offer programs that it otherwise might not be able to afford. An extremely strong partnership exists between the two organizations with the Depot Student Governing Board having an active service role in the success of many of the Youth Commission's community-wide events.

Members of the Youth Commission also have active roles in many human services organizations in Darien, including Parent Awareness, DCAARB (Darien Coalition to Address at Risk Behavior), the Community Fund's Human Services Planning Council (and subsequent C.A.R.E. campaign) and the Depot Adult Advisory Board. These connections reinforce the commitment that all in the community have to help support the youth of Darien to develop in a healthy, safe and vital manner.



Auditor's Letter

BlumShapiro

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Independent Auditors' Report

Board of Finance
Town of Darien
Darien, Connecticut

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Darien, Connecticut, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2008, which collectively comprise the Town's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Town's management. Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Town's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and the significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinions.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Darien, Connecticut, as of June 30, 2008, and the respective changes in financial position and cash flows, where applicable, thereof for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated December 5, 2008 on our consideration of the Town's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and should be considered in conjunction with this report in considering the results of our audit.

Management's discussion and analysis on pages 3 through 9 and budgetary comparison information on pages 41 through 47 are not a required part of the basic financial statements but are supplementary information required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We have applied certain limited procedures, which consisted principally of inquiries of management regarding the methods of measurement and presentation of the required supplementary information. However, we did not audit the information and express no opinion on it.

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Town's basic financial statements. The introductory section, combining and individual nonmajor fund financial statements and schedules, and statistical tables are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. The combining and individual nonmajor fund financial statements and schedules have been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, are fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The introductory section and statistical tables have not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements, and, accordingly, we express no opinion on them.

Blum, Shapiro & Company, P.C.

December 5, 2008

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Financial Data

TOWN OF DARIEN, CONNECTICUT

GENERAL FUND

SCHEDULE OF REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES BUDGET AND ACTUAL (NON-GAAP BUDGETARY BASIS)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2008

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
	Original	Final		
Property taxes:				
Property taxes current	\$ 88,738,758	\$ 88,738,758	\$ 89,493,304	\$ 754,546
Property taxes prior	290,000	290,000	535,611	245,611
Suspense tax collections	1,000	1,000	35,561	34,561
Telecommunication property tax	123,367	123,367	120,911	(2,456)
Interest and liens	230,000	230,000	347,277	117,277
Total property taxes	<u>89,383,125</u>	<u>89,383,125</u>	<u>90,532,664</u>	<u>1,149,539</u>
Licenses and permits:				
Town Clerk	1,300,000	1,300,000	1,753,685	453,685
Building, plumbing and other	1,183,400	1,183,400	1,585,404	402,004
Food establishment	60,000	60,000	55,369	(4,631)
Private disposal and water supply	36,600	36,600	51,725	15,125
Fire Marshal's revenue	4,000	4,000	8,625	4,625
Other	31,900	31,900	32,990	1,090
Total licenses and permits	<u>2,615,900</u>	<u>2,615,900</u>	<u>3,487,798</u>	<u>871,898</u>
Intergovernmental:				
Capital improvement grant	110,955	110,955	110,761	(194)
Housing Authority	44,000	44,000		(44,000)
Taxes on State-owned land	94,761	94,761	107,738	12,977
Pequot distribution	15,606	15,606	19,938	4,332
Disabled persons	100	100	166	66
Circuit breaker	60,570	60,570	44,694	(15,876)
Elderly tax relief	14,000	14,000	10,000	(4,000)
Veterans' exemption	7,700	7,700		(7,700)
Court fines	3,000	3,000	23,440	20,440
Boating safety enforcement	18,700	18,700	18,715	15
Infrastructure - Town aid	154,581	154,581	166,784	12,203
State school reimbursement	393,694	393,694	313,233	(80,461)
Education cost-sharing grant	1,100,000	1,100,000	1,673,060	573,060
Transportation	804	804	693	(111)
Other	14,000	14,000	43,681	29,681
Total intergovernmental	<u>2,032,471</u>	<u>2,032,471</u>	<u>2,532,903</u>	<u>500,432</u>

(continued)

Financial Data

TOWN OF DARIEN, CONNECTICUT

GENERAL FUND

SCHEDULE OF REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES BUDGET AND ACTUAL (NON-GAAP BUDGETARY BASIS) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2008

	Budgeted Amounts			Variance
	Original	Final	Actual	Favorable (Unfavorable)
Charges for services:				
Sale of codes, regulations, etc.	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 2,106	\$ (894)
GIS fees	100	100		(100)
Planning and zoning application	17,400	17,400	23,130	5,730
ZBA application fees	20,240	20,240	14,874	(5,366)
EPC application fees	30,000	30,000	24,479	(5,521)
Other planning fees	11,100	11,100	11,970	870
EMS Services	500	500		(500)
Services for Sewer Commission Authority	42,000	42,000	42,000	-
Services for Parking Fund	68,039	68,039	68,039	-
Parking meters and permits	117,650	117,650	142,175	24,525
Youth Commission fees	195,045	195,045	213,299	18,254
Beach parking permits	203,400	99,250	197,000	97,750
Boat launch fees	8,275	203,400	7,110	(196,290)
Parks and recreation	99,250	8,275	116,884	108,609
Other	10,000	10,000	17,596	7,596
Total charges for services	825,999	825,999	880,662	54,663
Fines and forfeits	18,000	18,000	19,458	1,458
Board of Education	73,200	178,207	218,875	40,668
Investment income	900,000	900,000	1,555,071	655,071
Bond premiums	-	-	175,432	175,432
Miscellaneous:				
Metro mobile rent	100,000	100,000	96,933	(3,067)
Coin operated Xerox machine	11,000	11,000	17,434	6,434
Commission on Aging - van	35,393	35,393	34,332	(1,061)
Other rents	20,500	20,500	27,841	7,341
Insurance recoveries	20,000	20,000	70,839	50,839
Other	30,000	30,000	114,021	84,021
Total miscellaneous	216,893	216,893	361,400	144,507
Total revenues	96,065,588	96,170,595	99,764,263	3,593,668

(continued)

Financial Data

TOWN OF DARIEN, CONNECTICUT

GENERAL FUND

SCHEDULE OF REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES BUDGET AND ACTUAL (NON-GAAP BUDGETARY BASIS) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2008

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
	Original	Final		
Other financing sources:				
Transfers in:				
Sewer Assessment Fund	\$ 859,698	\$ 859,698	\$ 859,698	\$ -
Sewer Operating Fund	53,807	53,807	53,807	-
Police Private Duty			55,341	55,341
Other Funds	845,000	845,000	699,402	(145,598)
Total transfers in	<u>1,758,505</u>	<u>1,758,505</u>	<u>1,668,248</u>	<u>(90,257)</u>
Appropriation of fund balance	<u>1,100,000</u>	<u>3,095,500</u>		<u>(3,095,500)</u>
Total other financing sources	<u>2,858,505</u>	<u>4,854,005</u>	<u>1,668,248</u>	<u>(3,185,757)</u>
Total Revenues and Other Financing Sources	<u>\$ 98,924,093</u>	<u>\$ 101,024,600</u>	101,432,511	<u>\$ 407,911</u>
Budgetary revenues are different than GAAP revenues because:				
State of Connecticut on-behalf contributions to the Connecticut State Teachers' Retirement System for Town teachers are not budgeted.			24,671,119	
Under liquidation of prior year encumbrances is recorded as miscellaneous revenue for budgetary reporting. This amount is excluded for financial reporting purposes.			(98,347)	
The Board of Education does not budget for certain intergovernmental grants which are credited against expenditures for budgetary reporting. These amounts are recorded as revenues and expenditures for financial reporting purposes.			<u>2,386,945</u>	
Total Revenues and Other Financing Sources as Reported on the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances - Governmental Funds - Exhibit IV			<u>\$ 128,392,228</u>	

Financial Data

TOWN OF DARIEN, CONNECTICUT

GENERAL FUND

SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES BUDGET AND ACTUAL (NON-GAAP BUDGETARY BASIS)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2008

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
	Original	Final		
General government:				
Selectmen's office	\$ 166,752	\$ 226,921	\$ 226,404	\$ 517
Administrative Officer	333,792	358,372	354,603	3,769
Human Resources	108,200	91,091	91,055	36
RTM	1,880	2,419	2,417	2
Financial management	350,289	372,215	371,935	280
Board of Finance	31,200	41,400	41,400	-
Tax Assessor	266,446	253,567	251,429	2,138
Tax Collector	226,673	235,030	231,998	3,032
Legal services	384,600	683,350	683,347	3
Town Clerk	238,096	233,011	230,389	2,622
Registrar of Voters	111,343	115,156	112,122	3,034
Information services	246,491	230,192	225,521	4,671
Probate court	11,300	11,300	9,314	1,986
Total general government	2,477,062	2,854,024	2,831,934	22,090
Community environment:				
Development Planning	529,871	538,035	533,906	4,129
Planning and Zoning	31,167	36,717	36,717	-
Zoning Appeals	5,520	5,520	5,101	419
Environmental Protection	5,960	6,495	5,893	602
Regional Planning	6,366	6,366	6,366	-
Beautification	34,000	34,000	34,000	-
Celebrations and observances	29,400	20,869	17,785	3,084
Harbor Master	375	379	377	2
Revitalize Downtown Darien	3,750	3,750	3,750	-
Total community environment	646,409	652,131	643,895	8,236
Public safety:				
Building Department	296,623	305,595	303,588	2,007
Police Department:				
Administration	463,559	468,697	468,060	637
Criminal Investigation	392,716	425,454	425,197	257
Patrol	3,034,265	3,396,691	3,395,966	725
Records	258,359	265,192	265,046	146
Youth	124,308	164,250	164,249	1
Marine Patrol	8,600	9,106	9,072	34
Training	119,960	153,469	152,833	636
Traffic and School Crossing	68,980	64,444	64,260	184
Fleet Services	155,338	152,625	152,384	241
Station maintenance and communication	176,182	182,234	182,009	225
Miscellaneous	800	167	81	86
Total Police Department	4,803,067	5,282,329	5,279,157	3,172

(continued)

Financial Data

TOWN OF DARIEN, CONNECTICUT

GENERAL FUND

SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES BUDGET AND ACTUAL (NON-GAAP BUDGETARY BASIS) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2008

	Budgeted Amounts			Variance
	Original	Final	Actual	Favorable (Unfavorable)
Fire service and emergency medical service:				
Darien Fire Department	\$ 125,468	\$ 125,553	\$ 117,120	\$ 8,433
Noroton Fire Department	134,795	137,401	136,267	1,134
Noroton Heights Fire Department	113,666	121,666	120,838	828
Board of Fire Commissioners	66,135	69,265	68,138	1,127
Fire Marshal	265,343	268,112	265,727	2,385
Hydrants and main rental	275,000	310,860	310,859	1
Disaster Preparedness	7,450	7,450	7,415	35
Emergency medical service	84,674	84,674	71,152	13,522
Total fire service and emergency medical service	1,072,531	1,124,981	1,097,516	27,465
Total public safety	6,172,221	6,712,905	6,680,261	32,644
Public works:				
Administration	304,215	315,655	312,873	2,782
Roadway and walkway maintenance	1,796,706	1,922,319	1,903,496	18,823
Public building management	356,817	367,867	366,265	1,602
Parking facility	76,260	54,473	54,443	30
Total public works	2,533,998	2,660,314	2,637,077	23,237
Health and social services:				
Social services	193,915	202,000	200,809	1,191
Social service - outside assistance	12,000	12,000	11,316	684
Senior Center	210,938	218,053	215,919	2,134
Senior transportation	35,393	35,393	34,217	1,176
Youth programs	281,739	270,486	255,293	15,193
Youth services grants	96,075	96,075	94,950	1,125
Other outreach services	5,200	5,200	4,100	1,100
Health Department	291,077	267,512	263,659	3,853
Total health and social services	1,126,337	1,106,719	1,080,263	26,456
Parks and recreation:				
Administration	254,784	290,566	283,178	7,388
Beach and court facilities	181,589	162,532	159,747	2,785
Maintenance and repair	363,142	352,442	345,841	6,601
Organized recreation activities	31,881	31,881	29,206	2,675
Grounds, fields, building	234,406	217,677	208,241	9,436
Total parks and recreation	1,065,802	1,055,098	1,026,213	28,885
Overhead and miscellaneous:				
Employee benefits	3,539,365	3,478,536	3,477,840	696
Risk management	857,777	948,801	947,693	1,108
Contingency	686,137	-	-	-
Total overhead and miscellaneous	5,083,279	4,427,337	4,425,533	1,804

(continued)

Financial Data

TOWN OF DARIEN, CONNECTICUT

GENERAL FUND

SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES BUDGET AND ACTUAL (NON-GAAP BUDGETARY BASIS) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2008

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
	Original	Final		
Library	\$ 2,516,090	\$ 2,516,090	\$ 2,516,090	\$ -
Board of Education - operations	62,437,932	62,437,932	62,326,790	111,142
Board of Education - other	73,200	178,207	178,207	-
Debt service:				
Schools	9,472,096	9,167,138	9,167,138	-
Town	181,610	123,000	123,000	-
Sewer	690,858	690,858	690,783	75
Servicing bonds	2,000			-
Total debt service	10,346,564	9,980,996	9,980,921	75
Total expenditures	94,478,894	94,581,753	94,327,184	254,569
Other financing uses:				
Transfers out:				
Animal Control	54,775	56,923	56,923	-
Refuse disposal	200,000	200,000	200,000	-
Retiree medical	387,324	387,324	387,324	-
Capital nonrecurring expenditures	3,803,100	5,798,600	5,798,600	-
Total other financing uses	4,445,199	6,442,847	6,442,847	-
Total	\$ 98,924,093	\$ 101,024,600	100,770,031	\$ 254,569

Budgetary expenditures are different than GAAP expenditures because:

State of Connecticut on-behalf payments to the Connecticut State

Teachers' Retirement System for Town teachers are not budgeted.

24,671,119

Encumbrances for purchases and commitments ordered but not received are reported in the year the order is placed for budgetary purposes, but in the year received for financial reporting purposes.

23,262

The Board of Education does not budget for certain intergovernmental grants which are credited against expenditures for budgetary reporting. These amounts are recorded as revenues and expenditures for financial reporting purposes.

2,386,945

Total Expenditures and Other Financing Sources as Reported on the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances - Governmental Funds - Exhibit IV

\$ 127,851,357

Financial Data

TOWN OF DARIEN, CONNECTICUT
BALANCE SHEET - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
JUNE 30, 2008

	<u>General</u>	<u>Sewer Operating</u>	<u>Sewer Assessment</u>	<u>Capital Projects</u>	<u>Nonmajor Governmental Funds</u>	<u>Total Governmental Funds</u>
ASSETS						
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 14,170,597	\$ 5,947,492	\$ 1,153,442	\$ 809,470	\$ 1,889,673	\$ 23,970,674
Investments					1,092,480	1,092,480
Receivables, net	3,114,187	325,951	4,767,604	3,534,460	196,330	11,938,532
Due from other funds	5,264,217			129,145	251,448	5,644,810
Inventories					16,107	16,107
Other assets	<u>1,151</u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u>1,151</u>
Total Assets	\$ <u>22,550,152</u>	\$ <u>6,273,443</u>	\$ <u>5,921,046</u>	\$ <u>4,473,075</u>	\$ <u>3,446,038</u>	\$ <u>42,663,754</u>
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES						
Liabilities:						
Accounts and other payables	\$ 1,879,005	\$ 82,727	\$ 42,845	\$ 1,449,757	\$ 228,097	\$ 3,682,431
Due to other funds	251,448	4,969		5,098,017	290,376	5,644,810
Deferred revenue	<u>2,831,880</u>	<u>325,951</u>	<u>4,767,604</u>	<u></u>	<u>69,795</u>	<u>7,995,230</u>
Total liabilities	<u>4,962,333</u>	<u>413,647</u>	<u>4,810,449</u>	<u>6,547,774</u>	<u>588,268</u>	<u>17,322,471</u>
Fund balances:						
Reserved for inventory					16,107	16,107
Reserved for encumbrances	177,432	54,494		1,076,050	145,806	1,453,782
Reserved for benefits					1,129,863	1,129,863
Unreserved, reported in:						
General Fund	17,410,387					17,410,387
Special Revenue Funds		5,805,302	1,110,597		1,565,994	8,481,893
Capital Project Funds				(3,150,749)		(3,150,749)
Total fund balances	<u>17,587,819</u>	<u>5,859,796</u>	<u>1,110,597</u>	<u>(2,074,699)</u>	<u>2,857,770</u>	<u>25,341,283</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	\$ <u>22,550,152</u>	\$ <u>6,273,443</u>	\$ <u>5,921,046</u>	\$ <u>4,473,075</u>	\$ <u>3,446,038</u>	\$ <u>42,663,754</u>

(continued)

TOWN OF DARIEN, CONNECTICUT
BALANCE SHEET - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
JUNE 30, 2008

Reconciliation of the Balance Sheet - Governmental Funds
to the Statement of Net Assets:

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net assets (Exhibit I) are different because of the following:

Fund balances - total governmental funds	\$ 25,341,283
--	---------------

Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the funds:

Governmental capital assets	\$ 251,608,105	
Less accumulated depreciation	(69,056,973)	
Net capital assets		182,551,132

Other long-term assets are not available to pay for current-period expenditures and, therefore, are not recorded in the funds:

Property tax receivables greater than 60 days	868,547
Interest receivable on property taxes	388,245
Assessments receivable	4,767,604
Sewer use receivables	269,481
Sewer use accrued interest	56,470
Receivable from the state for school construction projects	1,575,088

Long-term liabilities, including bonds payable, are not due and payable in the current period and, therefore, are not reported in the funds:

Bonds and notes payable	(97,939,665)
Interest payable on bonds and notes	(1,064,730)
Compensated absences	(1,651,381)
Deferred charges issuance costs	334,478
Bond premium	(166,661)
Deferred charges refunding	<u>1,289,565</u>

Net Assets of Governmental Activities (Exhibit I)	\$ <u>116,619,456</u>
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Financial Data

TOWN OF DARIEN, CONNECTICUT

RATIOS OF OUTSTANDING DEBT BY TYPE LAST TEN FISCAL YEARS (In Thousands)

Fiscal Year	Governmental Activities		Ratio of Debt to Taxable Assessed Value	Debt Per Capita
	General Obligation Bonds			
2008	\$ 97,940		1.51%	\$ 4.84
2007	84,551		1.32%	4.14
2006	90,052		1.44%	4.43
2005	84,097		1.34%	4.24
2004	70,187		1.13%	3.56
2003	73,389		1.17%	3.70
2002	47,006		0.76%	2.44
2001	44,510		0.72%	2.32
2000	47,930		0.76%	2.45
1999	50,595		0.80%	2.81

Note: Details regarding the Town's outstanding debt can be found in the notes to the financial statements.

TOWN OF DARIEN, CONNECTICUT

REPORT OF PROPERTY TAX COLLECTIONS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2008

Grand List Year	Uncollected Taxes June 30, 2007	Current Levy	Corrections		Transfers to Suspense	Adjusted Taxes Collectible	Collections				Uncollected Taxes June 30, 2008
			Additions	Deductions			Taxes	Interest	Liens	Total	
1992	\$ 1,035	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$ 1,035	\$ 67	\$	\$	\$ 67	\$ 1,035
1993	1,071					1,071					1,071
1994	1,109					1,109	188			188	1,109
1995	3,872					3,872	2,700	1,575	48	4,323	1,172
1996	8,962		241	90		9,113	3,102	11,693	24	14,819	6,011
1997	9,474					9,474	3,120	5,868	24	9,012	6,354
1998	14,720					14,720	5,993	5,244	48	11,285	8,727
1999	26,546					26,546	10,828	11,249	48	22,125	15,718
2000	32,624					32,624	12,912	13,599	96	26,607	19,712
2001	48,545		266			48,811	18,855	18,534	96	37,485	29,956
2002	101,631				52,556	49,075	17,410	23,215	96	40,721	31,665
2003	125,417			4,885		120,532	26,267	12,924	96	39,287	94,265
2004	202,877		42,825	6,032		239,670	142,000	38,216	336	180,552	97,670
2005	523,066		32,232	24,550		530,748	293,512	46,976	720	341,208	237,236
Total prior years	1,100,949	-	75,564	35,557	52,556	1,088,400	536,699	189,348	1,632	727,679	551,701
2006		89,932,680	347,781	250,541		90,029,920	89,494,121	178,887	8	89,673,016	535,799
Total	\$ 1,100,949	\$ 89,932,680	\$ 423,345	\$ 286,098	\$ 52,556	\$ 91,118,320	\$ 90,030,820	\$ 368,235	\$ 1,640	\$ 90,400,695	\$ 1,087,500

Your Town Officials

(All as of January 1, 2009)

ELECTED OFFICIALS and BOARDS

Board of Selectmen

First Selectwoman

Evonne M. Klein

Members of the Board

David F. Bayne

Seth W. Morton

Linda S. Santarella

Callie A. Sullivan

Town Clerk

Donna Rajczewski

Tax Collector

Robert Locke

Town Treasurer

Joan D. Hendrickson

State Representative

Terrie Wood

Judge of Probate

John B. Rearden, Jr.

Registrars of Voters

Thomas R. Dunn

Donald P. Smith

Board of Finance

Martha A. Banks

Lorene E. Bora

Elizabeth S. Mao

Gwen M. Mogenson

Murry K. Stegelmann, Chairman

Thomas F. Volpe

Jon E. Zagrodzky

Board of Education

John V. Boulton, Chairman

Elizabeth Hagerty-Ross

Susan T. Perticone

James M. Plutte

George A. Reilly

Clara C. Sartori

Heather L. Shea

Kimberly P. Westcott

Morgan B. Whittier

Board of Assessment Appeals

Richard P. Dolcetti, Chairman

Kevin P. O'Connor

Christopher S. Peters

Planning and Zoning Commission

Peter Bigelow

Frederick B. Conze, Chairman

Robert W. Finke

Gwynne L. Grimes

Reese Hutchison

Joseph H. Spain

Justices of the Peace

Thomas J. Alessi

Edward M. Axelrod

Eugene F. Coyle

Janet F. Grogan

Robert F. Harrel, Jr.

Cathy A. Hauck

Debra W. Hertz

Eric H. Joosten

Dorothy A. Kelly

Ann S. Mandel

Elizabeth L. Mason

Enid J. Oresman

Joseph Pankowski, Jr.

Marian T. Persico

Carolyn P. Schoonmaker

Anne W. Shaw

Charlotte T. Suhler

Barbara L. Thorne

Marc E. Thorne

Alfred P. Tibbetts

Arlene F. Tulacro

Georgia Ann Von Schmidt

Nancy M. Zengo

Constables

David W. Morgan

William J. Slinsky, Jr.

Joseph Tarnowsky, Jr.

Board of Ethics

A. James Cameron

Eugene F. Coyle

Mary Guimond

Thomas W. Moore, Chairman

Carolyn P. Schoonmaker

REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING MEMBERS

DISTRICT I (17 Seats)

Term Expires

Bishko, John A. 2009

Grimes, Charles W. 2009

Harrington, Barbara J. 2009

Imbimbo, Anthony V. 2010

Kelly, Peter K. 2009

Nelson, Peter W. 2009

Ness, Mary K. 2009

Piccaro, Christopher C. 2010

Price, John 2010

Puzyk, Bohdana 2010

Schneider, Lois J. 2009

Sini, John Ralph, Jr. 2010

Smith, Flora J. 2009

Tierney, Edward R. 2009

Valentino, Thomas J. 2009

Wong, Priscilla J. 2009

DISTRICT II (17 Seats)

Term Expires

Bacon, Elisabeth C. 2010

Conway, Karyn E. 2009

Howe, James H. 2010

Magida, Martin D. 2009

McGuire, Susannah M. 2010

Marston, Jeffrey L. 2009

Noe, Christian 2010

Ridley, Paige A. 2010

Rudnick, Michael B. 2009

Seelye, Sarah C. 2010

Sheehan, Maureen F. 2009

Smosky, Mark M. 2009

Thorne, Barbara L. 2010

Thorne, Marc E. 2010

Weicker, Penne B. 2009

DISTRICT III (17 Seats)

Term Expires

Bayne, Carolyn G. 2009

Brode, Charles E. 2010

Cardone, Robert 2010

Coyle, Eugene F. 2009

Duffy, Terrence, J. Jr. 2010

D'Urso, Michael A. 2009

Fead, Dana H. 2010

Helms, Susan P. 2009

Lehan, Susan E. 2009

Maroney, Dennis J. 2010

Martens, David B. 2009

Moore, Thomas W. 2009

Olvany, Stephen P. 2010

Pullen, Jack W. 2010

Smith, H. William, III 2009

Voigt, Eric J. 2009

Young, Robert E., Jr. 2009

DISTRICT IV (16 Seats)

Term Expires

Artinian, Harry L.M. 2009

Cameron, Angus J. 2009

Cleary, Maria L. 2009

Davis, Joan V. 2010

Eng, Jeffrey D. 2010

Kemp, Frank B. 2009

Millar, Andrew C. 2009

Morrison, Susan E. 2009

Pratt, Lee 2010

Rayhill, Brian J. 2010

Rycenga, Anita M. 2010

Savage, Sandra A. 2009

Schoonmaker, Carolyn P. 2010

Schoonmaker, Samuel V. III 2010

Weyhe, Philip D. 2010

DISTRICT V (16 Seats)

Term Expires

Adiletta, Mark R. 2010

Balian, Simon U. 2009

Camuti, Christopher L. 2009

Conniff, Adele M. 2009

Dailey, Mark S. 2010

Davis, Jack H. 2010

George, Robert C. 2010

Hennessy, Joanne K. 2010

Nizolek, Diana M. 2009

Orr, Bruce G., Sr. 2009

Patrick, James M. 2009

Russell, Cheryl 2010

Sharp, Karin L. 2010

VanDerKeift, John W. III 2010

Wenger, Virgil E. 2009

Wolcott, John O. 2010

DISTRICT VI (17 Seats)

Term Expires

Adelman, Frank H. 2010

Armour, Karen A. 2010

Baldwin, Barry R. 2010

Berl, Elsie D. 2009

Conologue, Diane G. 2010

Grogan, Janet F. 2010

Guimond, Mary 2010

Hawkins, Edgar M. III 2010

Jones, Bonita L.	2009	Ruth Anne Ramsey
McDermott, Emily Q.	2009	Andrea Sangrey
McLean, John G., Jr.	2010	Tracey Shepard
McNamara, Christa S.	2009	Charlotte Suhler, Chairman
Plehaty, S. Lloyd	2009	Barbara Thorne
Poli, Richard	2010	
Stephens, Bryan S.	2009	
Swenson, Gary C.	2009	
Whitehead, John T.	2009	

APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Architectural Review Board

Sean Brown
Marian Castell
Rita Gadsden
Cheryl Greene
Judith Groppa
Alison Hughes
Susan Lawrence, Chairman
Timothy MacDonald

Beautification Commission

Robert Baker
Susan Bhirud
Sandra Drimal
Sandra Filmer
Gerry McGrath
Lori Kirchen
Marcia Meinerth
Chris Merritt
Jonathan Olmsted
Janet Sargent, Chairman
John Schlachtenhaufen
Suzanne Schutte

Advisory Board of Health

Jose Cara
Kevin Cunningham, Chairman
Mary Guimond

Building Board of Appeals

Craig Flaherty
Joseph Kelly
Robert Rosic
Richard Wood, Chairman

Darien Affordable Housing Advisory Commission

Gwynne Grimes
David Genovese
Greg Harmer
Barbara Merrell
Caroline Murray

Advisory Commission on Coastal Waters

Colin Seely
C. Lincoln Jewett
Frank Kemp
John McDonald, Chairman
Walter Raleigh
Cheryl Russell
Jon Schoudel
Palmer Sparkman
Henry Strauss

Commission on Aging

Jennifer Geddes
Mary Giarratana
Norman Guimond
Ron Heinbaugh
Karen Joelson
Alexander Liu
Mary McCarthy
Pat Morgan
Joseph Pankowsky, Jr., Chairman
Amy Squyres
Robin Woods

Commissioners of Social Services

Nancy Herling
Debra Hertz, Chairman
Holly Hawes
Lisa Ioli
Polly Lowman
Mary Ellen Quirk
Kathy Saulitis

Deer Management Committee

Brooks Chamberlain
Beth Drewes
Jerry Goersch
Kent Haydock, Chairman
Rick Littlefield
Don Miller
Peggy Peoples
Frank Rosenberry, Vice Chair
Linda Verbeck

Environmental Protection Commission

Susan Cameron
Craig Flaherty
Peter Hillman, Chairman
Peter Kenyon, III
Ellen Kirby
Richard Rohr
Michael Tone

File Mile River Commission

John de Regt
William Jessup
Dirk Leasure
Matthew Marion, Chairman
Raymond Meuer

Government Access TV Committee

Wilder Baker
Jim Cameron
Eugene Coyle
David Dever
Marilyn Hart
Lynn Hamlen, Chairman
Michael Wheeler

Housing Authority

Cynthia Ashburne
Kass Bruno
Jan Raymond
Jennifer Schwartz, Chairman
Joseph Warren

Information Technology Committee

Jeff Adams
Joan Agresta, Chairman
Julia Anderson
Jean Benitez
Louise Berry
Dave Dever
Jeremy Ginsberg
Peter Hovell
Duane Lovello
Lewis Jordan
Franklin Penn
Lloyd Plehaty
Heather Shea

Monuments and Ceremonies Commission

Marian Castell
Edward Carabillo
Phillip Kraft, Chairman

Donald Miller
Philip A. Morehouse
John Geoghegan
Karen Polett
Kenneth Reiss
Robert Riith
Charles F. Scribner
George Walsh

Operations Planning Committee

Karen Armour
John Boulton
Fred Conze
Karl F. Kilduff
Evonne M. Klein, Chairman
Murry Stegelmann

Parks and Recreation Commission

Jane Branigan, Chairman
Vin Burke
Susan Daly
Charles Goodyear
Susan Graham
Marianne Gutierrez
Merrie Hawley
Andrew Hunter
Robert Marchesi

Police Commission

Robert Harrel, Jr.
J. Paul Johnson, Chairman
Peter Truebner

Selectmen's Emergency Management Committee

Karen Armour
Jim Baker
Robert Buch
Harry Carey
Michael Cotta
Paul Engemann
Donald Fiftal
Joan Gildea
Olive Hauser
Frazer Herbert
Alan Hyatt
Karl F. Kilduff
George Kingston
Evonne M. Klein, Chairman
David Knauf
Duane Lovello
Nancy Markey

(continued)

Lisa Mason
John McDonald
Marc McEwan, Emergency
Management Director
David Medd
Gary Plank
Robert Price
Charles Saverine
Carolyn Schoonmaker
Robert Steeger
Christopher Swan
Susan Swiatek
Veronica Tella
Dr. Dorothy Turnbull
Susan Warren
Rick Weatherston

Sewer Commission
William Doughman
Rocco Genovese
Anne Shaw
Robert Riith, Chairman
Peter Van Winkle

SWRPA Representatives
Reese Hutchison
Robert Young

Town Historian
Marian Castell

Joint Town Pension Board
Kelly Galvin
Kathryn Hammell, Chairman
Robert Harrel, Jr.
J. Paul Johnson
Sgt. Ray Osborne
Bruce Sargent
Peter Truebner

Thomas Volpe
John Whitehead

Youth Commission
Geoffrey Ball, Chairman
Karen Brennan
Holly Kelly
Meghan Moore
Debra Ritchie
Christine Wood

Zoning Board of Appeals
Victor Capellupo, Chairman
Charles Deluca
Gary Greene
Alfred Tibbetts
Jeffrey Williams

Alternates:
John Ashburne
Polly Davis
Ruth Anne Ramsey

TOWN DEPARTMENT HEADS

Administrative Officer
Karl F. Kilduff
Assessor
Anthony Homicki
Building Official
Charles Saverine
Assistant Building Official
Peter Solheim
Emergency Management Director
Marc McEwan
Emergency Medical Services Director
Susan Warren

Finance Department
Finance Director
Kate Clarke Buch

Fire Departments
Darien Chief
Rick Weatherstone
Noroton Chief
Alan Hyatt
Noroton Heights Chief
Gary Plank
Fire Marshal
Robert Buch

Harbor and Docks
Harbor Master
Robert Price
Deputy Harbor Master
Eugene McGarry
Five Mile River Harbor Superintendent
Raymond Meurer
Noroton Harbor Dockmaster
Jeffrey Eng

Health Director
David Knauf

Human Resources Director
Nancy Markey

Parks and Recreation Director
Susan Swiatek
Assistant Director
Jim Coghlan

Planning and Zoning Director
Jeremy Ginsberg
Asst. Dir. /Zoning Enforcement Officer
David Keating

Police Department Chief
Duane Lovello
Captains
Frederick Komm
Gary Pavia

Public Works/Sewer Services Director
Robert Steeger
Assistant Director
Darren Oustafine

Schools Superintendent
Donald Fital
Assistant Superintendents
Dr. Stephen Falcone
Dr. Judith Pandolfo
Director of Finance
Richard Huot
Director of Facilities & Construction
Paul Engemann

Senior Center Director
Nancy Zengo
Assistant Senior Center Director
Carolyn Lewis

Social Services Director
Olive Hauser

Town Counsel
John Wayne Fox

Tree Warden
Michael Cotta

Youth Director
Alicia Sillars

Town Statistics

POPULATION OF DARIEN - FEDERAL CENSUS FIGURES SINCE 1860

1860	1,705	1910	3,946	1960	18,437
1870	1,808	1920	4,184	1970	20,411
1880	1,948	1930	6,951	1980	18,892
1890	2,276	1940	9,222	1990	18,196
1900	3,116	1950	11,767	2000	19,607

OTHER FACTS

Area of Town:	14.9 Sq. Miles
Bond Rating:	Aaa
Date of Incorporation:	1820
Form of Government:	Selectmen Representative Town Meeting
Registered Voters (October 1, 2007):	11,700
Road Mileage:	State: 11.02 Miles
	Town: 81.08 Miles
Town Grand List (Oct. 1, 2006):	\$6,504,163,707
Town Tax Rate (FY 2007-2008):	13.87 mills

Where to apply for...

Licenses, Permits and Certificates

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Building Permit
Certificate of Compliance
Certificate of Occupancy
Demolition Permit
Electrical Permit
Heating/Ventilation/A.C. Permit
Plumbing Permit

FIRE MARSHAL

Blasting Permit
Flammable Liquid Tank Permit

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Clamming Permit
Food Establishment License
Garbage Collector's License
Sewage Disposal Permit
Sewage Transportation License
Well Permit

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Beach Permit
Permit for Use of Parks or Fields
Permit to Rent a Room at Town Hall

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

Automobile Repairer's Compliance
Automobile Repairer's License
Inland Wetlands Permit
Sign Permit
Site Plan Approval (Business Zones)
Special Permit for Land Filling, Excavation
and Earth Removal
Special Permit for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control
Variance from Zoning Regulations
Zoning Map or Regulation Amendment
Zoning Permit
Application to Conduct a Regulated Activity within
an Inland Wetlands Area

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Auction Permit
Bazaar, Bingo or Raffle Permit
Bicycle Registration
Peddler's, Solicitor's, or Vendor's License
Permit to Conduct Games of Chance
Pistol Permit
Tag Sale Permit

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Refuse Disposal Area Permit
Street Opening Permit
Building Sewer Permit
Garbage Disposal Unit Permit
Septic Tank Disposal Permit

REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

Voter Registration

SELECTMEN'S OFFICE

Parking Permit
Lodging House License

TOWN CLERK

Death Certificate
Dog License
Fishing License
Hunting License
Marriage License
Voter Registration

Telephone Directory

FIRE, POLICE OR AMBULANCE

EMERGENCIES: **DIAL 911**

TOWN DEPARTMENTS*

Administrative Officer	656-7338
Animal Control Officer	655-8686
Assessor	656-7310
Building	656-7347
Clerk, Town	656-7307
Finance	656-7334
Fire Marshal	656-7345
Health	656-7320
Housing Authority	655-0866

Information Technology	656-7402
Parks and Recreation	656-7325
Human Resources	656-7390
Planning and Zoning	656-7351
Police (routine)	662-5300
Probate Court	656-7342
Public Works Garage	655-0133
Public Works Director	656-7346
Registrar of Voters	656-7316
School Administration	656-7400

Selectmen	656-7338
Sewers	656-7331
Social Services	656-7328
Solid Waste Transfer Station	655-7663
Tax Collector	656-7314
Tree Warden	866-8614
Youth Commission	656-7326
Zoning Enforcement	656-7352

For information on services not listed	656-7300
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* All area codes are 203

Darien: My Hometown



Town of Darien
Office of the Selectmen
Town Hall, 2 Renshaw Road
Darien, CT 06820-5397